



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

MITI Responds to U.S. House Toshiba Decision

OW101105 Tokyo KYODO in English 0941 GMT

10 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—A senior official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Wednesday that a decision by four committees of the U.S. House of Representatives to recommend the exclusion of Toshiba Corp. from sanctions contained in an omnibus trade bill was a favorable sign.

He made the comment after the four committees agreed on Tuesday to recommend the sanctions should only be applied to a Toshiba subsidiary which broke COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] rules, Toshiba Machine Co. Toshiba affiliates should be excluded from the sanctions, the committees said.

MITI Vice Minister Shinji Fukukawa told a press conference that the bill as now amended by the committees is slightly better than the one before the Senate, which calls for the whole Toshiba group to be subject to penalties. The two houses are currently working to finalize a joint bill.

Fukukawa said the Japanese Government will continue to ask the U.S. Government to prevent the sanctions bills from becoming law.

Toshiba Declines Comment

OW100723 Tokyo KYODO in English 0512 GMT

10 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—Sakae Shimizu, vice president of Toshiba Corp., Wednesday declined comment on the U.S. House of Representatives' decision Tuesday to penalize only Toshiba Corp.'s subsidiary in a U.S. omnibus trade bill now before the U.S. Congress in connection with the latter's illegal sales of sophisticated high-tech equipment to the Soviet Union.

He said the Toshiba group had been exerting utmost efforts not to repeat the same mistake in honoring the rules of the Coordinating Committee (COCOM) on Export Controls to the communist nations.

Shimizu expressed the hope that the U.S. Congress would understand the group's efforts in this connection.

Fujitsu To Export Computers to Chinese Firm

OW100813 Tokyo KYODO in English 0753 GMT

10 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—Fujitsu Ltd. said Wednesday it has received permission from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to export its general-purpose computers to a Chinese insurance company.

The People's Insurance Company of China, China's sole state-run insurance firm dealing with both life insurance and nonlife insurance, will import six M-760 computers and a total of 308 units of F9450 terminals from Fujitsu, a company spokesman said.

Fujitsu asked MITI last July to grant the company an export license for goods totaling 1.2 billion yen, the value of contracts made with the Chinese insurance firm the previous month, the officials said.

But administrative procedures were delayed due to tight restrictions on exports of high-tech goods to communist nations in accordance with COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] rules, he said.

The Chinese firm plans to install the computers at its six branch offices by June and to start operating them next year as part of its modernization program in line with the nation's Seventh Five-Year Economic Plan, which started in 1986.

Joint Economic Mission To Visit USSR

OW090913 Tokyo KYODO in English 0833 GMT

9 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 9 KYODO—Japan will send a joint economic mission of business and government officials to the Soviet Union later this year for the first time in 23 years, government sources said Tuesday.

They said the joint public-private sector delegation of over a dozen people, to go to Moscow possibly this fall, will include officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Industry.

Japan is dispatching what will be the first such joint mission to the Soviet Union since 1965 at Moscow's strong and repeated requests, the sources said.

A senior official of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations said at Japan-Soviet trade talks in Tokyo last June that his country is anxious to welcome a large-scale joint mission to help strengthen bilateral economic relations.

But the sources said the revelation last year that Toshiba Machine Co. had sold high-technology machines to the Soviet Union in violation of COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] rules had aggravated relations between the two countries.

A top Soviet business leader told a Tokyo meeting last month the Soviet Union wants Japanese Government officials to be part of a high-powered economic mission from Japan.

Foreign Minister Cancels Malaysia Trip
OW100843 Tokyo KYODO in English 0733 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb. 10 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno has decided to cancel a planned trip to Malaysia which was to have been part of a three-nation Asian tour, diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

The sources said Uno is expected to go ahead with his original plan to visit Indonesia and China around later April and early May.

A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official had earlier said that Uno had planned to include Malaysia in his tour.

In Tokyo, Foreign Ministry sources said Uno decided to cancel the Malaysia visit because it would have coincided with Ramadan, a sacred month in the Islamic year in which Muslims fast from dawn to sunset.

The sources in Tokyo said the cancellation has nothing to do with the present political crisis in Malaysia triggered by a court ruling on the legality of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed's ruling party.

Uno's Malaysia trip was merely tentative and Tokyo had not informed the Malaysian Government of the plan, the sources said.

The visit would have been Uno's first to Malaysia since he became foreign minister last November.

Ministry Increases Beef Import Quota
OW101145 Tokyo KYODO in English 1023 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said Wednesday the beef import quota for the first half of fiscal 1988 will be 102,000 tons, up 9,000 tons over the same period of last year.

The increase fulfills Japan's pledge under its current agreement with the United States and Australia which ends next March 31.

The announcement came earlier than expected as the ministry usually does not release the quota until after the new fiscal year begins on April 1.

The ministry's decision is aimed at bringing the United States to the conference table to negotiate a new bilateral agreement on beef imports.

Washington has refused to negotiate with Japan while demanding that Tokyo produce a timetable for beef import liberalization.

Ministry officials said the new quota is aimed not only at attaining the goal pledged under the agreement with the United States and Australia but also at promoting Japan's beef imports smoothly in the new fiscal year.

Based on the work of an advisory panel, the Livestock Promotion Council, the ministry estimated Japan's beef imports will increase from 13,000 tons to 23,000 tons annually in the future.

Japan agreed to increase its beef imports from the United States and Australia by 9,000 tons annually from fiscal 1984 to 1987.

The ministry increased import quotas in fiscal 1987 by a total of 46,000 tons, of which 8,000 tons was in the first half and an additional 38,000 tons in the latter half.

Farmers Group Outlines Policy for Imports
OW101153 Tokyo KYODO in English 0912 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—The Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (Zenchu) worked out a basic policy Wednesday against liberalization of Japan's imports of farm produce.

The powerful farm group submitted a request to a ruling Liberal Democratic Party's subcommittee the same day for relief measures in return for imports of 10 farm items declared as illegal by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The union called for early implementation of a raise in import duties and compensatory measures on farmers' income to protect the domestic agricultural industry.

Japan agreed to liberalize tomato juice, processed beef and pork and six other items according to a GATT recommendation. But it refused to liberalize evaporated milk and starches.

It also called on the LDP to flatly refuse liberalization of beef and citrus imports, saying such liberalization will jeopardize Japan's livestock and orchard industries.

The U.S. has been pressing Japan to completely liberalize imports of beef and citrus juice.

Domestic Investment To Expand in 1988
OW091059 Tokyo KYODO in English 0936 GMT
9 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 9 KYODO—Domestic investment in plant and equipment by Japanese corporations is likely to expand in the first half of calendar 1988 due to prospects of sustained economic growth, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said in a report Tuesday.

Corporate investment in plant and equipment in industry generally is expected to expand by 3.7 percent in the first quarter in comparison with the previous three months and by 0.4 percent in the second quarter, the report said.

An EPA official said plant and equipment investment is considered to be fairly bullish as the figures follow a sharp expansion of 8.1 percent during the October-December period.

The report was based on the results of a questionnaire covering 3,883 selected companies with capital of 100 million yen or more, conducted last December, the official said.

Investment in plant and equipment in the manufacturing sector is likely to expand by 5.0 percent in the first quarter, but is expected to drop by 4.2 percent in following three months, the report said.

The official attributed the drop to the fact that some 230 manufacturing firms had not yet decided their investment plans for fiscal 1988 at the time of the survey, adding that investment for the second quarter is likely to recover to a level equal for the preceding quarter.

Investment in the nonmanufacturing sector is expected to undergo a sustained rise, scoring a 3.4 percent growth in the first quarter and a 2.2 percent increase in the second quarter, the report said.

Corporate sentiment on the domestic economic outlook was generally optimistic, the report said.

Corporate investment in plant and equipment for fiscal 1987, ending March 31, is now expected to post a 9.3 percent year-on-year rise, compared with a projected 7.0 percent increase cited in the previous survey conducted last September. Estimated investment in the last quarter of 1987 is now likely to post a 8.1 percent quarterly rise, compared with a 4.9 percent increase in the previous survey.

Opposition Leader Comments on Diet 'Stalemate'
*OW100929 Tokyo KYODO in English 0706 GMT
10 Feb 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—Opposition leader Takako Doi said on Wednesday that there is no easy settlement to the current parliamentary stalemate as the Diet entered its third day of deadlock.

Diet business has been halted completely this week after a Lower House committee chairman on Saturday prevented a Japan Communist Party member from asking questions and called JCP leader Kenji Miyamoto a "murderer."

Doi, leader of the Japan Socialist Party, said at a party caucus that the No. 1 opposition party will fight for a solution acceptable to the ordinary citizen.

Liberal Democratic Party officials continued intraparty consultations to discuss the political future of Koichi Hamada, an LDP member and the chairman of the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

Hamada's political mentor Shin Kanemaru, a former deputy prime minister, will probably ask Hamada to resign from the post voluntarily, LDP officials said.

The opposition camp has agreed to boycott a hearing on the fiscal 1988 budget, scheduled for February 15-16, unless Hamada resigns as committee chairman, opposition sources said.

Meanwhile, a Japan Socialist Party floor leader confirmed reports that last month Hamada offered 100,000 yen coupons as gifts to 17 opposition members at the Budget Committee.

The opposition members refused to accept the coupons and sent them back to Hamada, said Shun Oide, chairman of the JSP Diet affairs committee.

A Japan Communist Party spokesman said Hamada's conduct had reinforced the image of Japanese politicians as plutocratic and corrupt.

Hamada declined to comment to reporters at the Diet.

North Korea

Vienna Meeting Adopts Appeal Urging Talks
*SK101043 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1021 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—An appeal to the governments, parliaments, political parties and social organizations of all countries and international organizations was adopted at an enlarged meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea which was held in Vienna.

The meeting analyzed the situation on the Korean peninsula, the situation obtaining [as received] in South Korea after the powerful popular movement for independence, democracy and reunification in particular, and discussed measures to further expand and strengthen the international movement of solidarity for the Korean people's just cause of peace and peaceful reunification of their country.

In particular, the appeal stressed:

The attendants of the meeting expressed deep apprehensions for the fact that the United States and the South Korean authorities are massing huge armed forces in

South Korea on the pretext of a "successful guarantee" for the Olympic games and that they announced a plan to stage the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises simulating a nuclear war against the DPRK from February to May 1988.

The meeting highly estimated the new proposal for North-South dialogue advanced by President Kim Il-song saying the DPRK will meet and converse any time not only with the people from all walks of life, political parties, organizations and people of different opposition groups, but also those in authority in South Korea, unless this is contrary to the people's will, and will meet everyone individually or collectively to exchange opinions without reserve.

Reaffirming support to the proposal for tripartite talks, the proposal for North-South high-level political and military talks and the proposal for a North-South joint conference, the meeting called for intensifying the international movement of solidarity for the Korean people's struggle for peace and reunification of Korea.

It expressed the hope that the governments, parliaments, political parties and social organizations of all countries and international organizations would urge the United States and the South Korean authorities to accept the DPRK's disarmament proposal and thus contribute to removing the danger of nuclear war from the Korean peninsula and defending world peace and security.

The meeting indicts to the world's public opinion and brings a charge before the international tribunal against the United States and the South Korean authorities who masterminded the shocking bloodbath in Kwangju in May 1980 and who worked out a script for the KAL incident in November 1987, etc.

Resolutely opposing dictator No Tae-u's "victory in the presidential elections" in South Korea, the meeting denounced the ever intensified suppression and ever worsening violations of human rights in South Korea and called upon the world people to render positive support to the South Korean students and people in their struggle for independence, democracy and national reunification.

It called upon the world's peace- and justice-loving people to express full support and solidarity for the Korean people's just struggle to achieve national reunification and peace in Korea by means of founding a neutral confederal state which recognizes the existence of the North and the South.

It expresses the conviction that the governments, parliaments, political parties, social organizations and individual persons of all countries and international organizations will pay deeper attention to the Korean issue and extend support and solidarity for the Korean people's struggle to force foreign troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea and reunify the country peacefully.

The meeting appeals to the world's progressive forces to further expand the international signature campaign for peace and reunification of Korea, launched by the International Liaison Committee.

Kim Il-song Receives Letter

*SK100831 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0900 GMT 9 Feb 88*

[Letter to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song adopted "amid the enthusiastic applause of the participants" at the enlarged meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea held in Vienna, Austria, 5-6 February]

[Text] Pyongyang, Your Excellency DPRK President Kim Il-song: Dear Your Excellency the President, I have the honor of sending you this letter in the name of the participants of the expanded meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Liaison Committee held in Vienna, Austria, 5-6 February 1988.

In the expanded meeting of the Executive Committee satisfactory summation was made of the status of activities conducted in all countries and in the international arena during the international year for peace and reunification of Korea, and discussions were made as to the tasks and methods to further expand the international movement of solidarity with the Korean people in conformity with the demand of the prevailing situation.

The participants of the enlarged meeting have highly valued the consistent efforts of the WPK and the DPRK Government to bring forth dialogue and talks to ease tensions and achieve durable peace in Korea and to realize reunification of the country. The participants have highly valued and actively supported the new proposal for a North-South joint meeting you put forth in your New Year's address as being the most reasonable and just proposal to peacefully solve the Korean question.

Your Excellency the President, the participants in the meeting have confirmed their support once again for the proposal to found the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo for the reunification and durable peace of Korea and the proposals to convert the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and for the phased reduction of armed forces. The participants have acknowledged that these proposals are realistic, fair, and just proposals that conform to the aspirations of the Korean people and the people of the world to ease tensions in Korea, to eliminate the danger of nuclear war, and to peacefully settle the Korean question. The participants have denounced the dictatorship that continues in South Korea with the election of No Tae-u and have expressed great concern over the suppression and acts of trampling upon human rights being accelerated in South Korea.

The expanded meeting has resolutely denounced the United States for creating obstacles to peace and the reunification of Korea by committing aggressive provocative acts, such as the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise and the bringing of more nuclear weapons into South Korea.

The meeting has demanded that the United States, the ringleader of international terrorism and the aggressor against Korea which has fabricated such a brazen drama stratagem as the airplane incident to prolong military rule in South Korea, be accused before the world and that the United States and the South Korean puppet regime be condemned in international organizations.

The participants in the meeting have expressed their firm resolve to realistically contribute to the cause of peace and the reunification of Korea by further strengthening the international movement of solidarity with the Korean people in their just struggle to eliminate the danger of war on the Korean peninsula and defend peace in Asia and around the world.

The participants in the meeting have expressed their conviction that the brave Korean people, enjoying the active support of the peace-loving people of the world, will certainly realize their historic mission of bringing to an end the division of their country under the wise leadership of Your Excellency the President.

Your Excellency the President, the participants respectfully wish you long life and good health for the prosperity of your country, for the well-being of the Korean people, and for peace and the peaceful reunification of Korea.
[Signed] G. Dupre, secretary general, representing the participants of the enlarged meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea, 6 February 1988, Vienna.

Defection of Civilian 'Transport Officer'

SK101244 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
1100 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Son Hak-su, 55, formerly known as Son Chang-ku in South Korea, a civilian transport officer employed at the Headquarters of the Second Division of the U.S. forces occupying South Korea, defected to the northern half of the Republic recently.

Functionaries concerned greeted him in Pyongyang with warm-hearted compatriotic love.

His domicile of origin is Myongchon County, North Hamgyong Province, and his birth place is Yanjin County, Jilin Province, China.

Returning to the fatherland with his parents following national liberation, he lived in Pyongyang.

During the period of the fatherland liberation war, he petitioned the People's Army to join and went as far as Yosu, South Cholla Province, South Korea, following his unit. He sustained a wound in an area near Sangju, North Kyongsang Province, and was obliged to part from the unit. Later, he was forcibly drafted into the puppet South Korean army and was made to serve in it.

After being discharged from the puppet army, he had worked at a U.S. unit as a menial worker, a financial clerk, and a transport officer.

Upon returning to his beloved homeland after nearly 40 years of absence, he said: Never since I was forced to remain in the South against my will until now, when my hair is gray, have I ever forgotten my home town, where my parents and relatives live.

While I was in the South, I tried to seize opportunities on many occasions to come over to the North, but I had not been able to fulfill my goal as I was from the North and the authorities kept their eyes on me. However, I have never abandoned my hope and conviction that one day I would come to the bosom of the Republic.

Living in the South, I could directly feel the military occupation of South Korea by the United States and its policy of subjugating it as a colony every minute of every day. What is more, over the course of undertaking the transport of weapons at a unit of U.S. forces, I saw for myself that large armed forces are deployed for action in the frontline area near the truce line. I could not suppress my feeling of curses for the U.S. forces' criminal commotion of preparing for a war of aggression.

In the Second Division of the U.S. forces alone, there are approximately 100 various nuclear weapons and tens of neutron bombs targeted on the North. How could I stop worrying about the formidable nuclear catastrophe that my fellow countrymen will suffer?

Through the experiences of half my life, I had no choice but to view in new light the society of the South, a U.S. colony, and I have been disillusioned about it. In proportion to this growing sentiment, I missed so much the North where I was happy and felt rewarded for my life under the rule of the great General Kim Il-song in the post-national liberation period and could not suppress my urge to live my remaining days with relatives in the North where a government that attaches primary importance to the people is administered and where the spirit of the nation is alive.

Biding my time to come over to the North, I decided to seize a chance of doing so when I went abroad as a tourist last year and thus recently succeeded in coming into the bosom of the Republic, which I have longed for even in my dreams, by traveling various regions for a long time, although I could come here in just a few hours if I crossed the truce line.

Son Hak-su is satisfied with the realization of his desire to come over to the North and is spending pleasant days amid the warm compatriotic hospitality of the people in the northern half of the republic.

MAC Meeting Requested for 15 February
SK101313 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1300 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Our side of the MAC today proposed to the enemy side the holding of the 441th MAC meeting at 1100 on 15 February 1988.

Madagascar Willing To Attend Joint Olympics
SK100425 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0412 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—The Democratic Republic of Madagascar will participate in the Olympic games only on condition that their co-hosting is realized.

If the 24th Olympic games fail to be held jointly by North and South of Korea, we will boycott them. This is our steadfast stand and it will be invariable.

Andriamani Samuelson, deputy to the People's National Assembly of Madagascar and secretary general of the Malagasy Olympic Committee, in an interview with a KCNA correspondent in Antananarivo on February 3, said this, reaffirming his country's stand.

He recalled that in a press conference on April 25, 1987, the Malagasy president announced that Madagascar would not participate in the 24th Olympic games unless they are held both in the North and the South of Korea and that the revolutionary government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar reaffirmed this in a communique on January 15.

Saying the DPRK's proposal for Olympic co-hosting is not only a reasonable and just proposal but also one of the important factors in promoting Korea's reunification either in view of the noble idea of the Olympic movement or in view of the desire of the nation, he declared that the co-hosting should be realized without fail.

He noted that the South Korean puppets are working by this or that means to make Madagascar participate in the "Seoul games."

Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Continues Visit

Gives Support Against U.S.
LD091513 Tehran IRNA in English 1112 GMT
9 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—Iranian Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri discussed important international and regional issues with Vice-Premier of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Hong Song-Nam in Pyongyang today.

During the two-hour meeting Mo'ayeri said the two countries enjoy good relations both in political and economic fields. "Iran and DPRK share common views in the Non-Aligned Movement," Mo'ayeri said.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, he said, supports DPRK against recent hostile U.S. provocations, adding that Washington cannot tolerate to see an independent country in the world. "The U.S. like an octopus has spread its tentacles throughout the world but struggles of the world people proved that its vain efforts have so far been fruitless."

On the U.S. military intervention in the Persian Gulf Mo'ayeri said U.S. forces entered the waterway with the help of some regional reactionaries under the false pretext of maintaining security.

The U.S. presence in the region has only helped exacerbate tension and the U.S. and its allies are withdrawing from the region in total humiliation due to the firm resistance of revolutionary Iranians, said Mo'ayeri.

The DPRK vice-premier in response thanked the Iranian delegation for visiting his country and congratulated the ninth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. He also reiterated DPRK's support for Iran's anti-imperialist stance.

Referring to continuous U.S. plots in the Korean peninsula, Hong outlined his country's efforts in maintaining tranquility in the region and said "We are for a peaceful Korean peninsula devoid of nuclear armaments."

Elsewhere he said Iran and DPRK are both located in sensitive regions, members of the Non-aligned Movement and fighting imperialism in a united front. "We attach great respect to Iran and will stand by your country," Hong added.

Mo'ayeri heading a delegation arrived in Pyongyang Monday.

Kim Il-song Greeted President
SK101113 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1051 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on February 9 sent a message of greetings to Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

The message says:

The Iranian people under the leadership of His Excellency Ayatollah Imam Khomeyn, their respected leader, have made many achievements over the past nine years in the struggle to defend the revolutionary gains and build a new life, overcoming various difficulties.

The message wishes the Iranian president and people greater successes in their work to build an independent and prosperous, new Iran and expresses the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations forged between the two countries on the road of independence against imperialism will further develop and strengthen in the future.

Delegation Concludes Visit

SK101109 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1049 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—The government delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran headed by Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri left today for home after winding up its three-day visit to Korea.

It was seen off by Vice-Premier Hong Song-nam, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Pak Ui-chun and Iranian Ambassador Reza Seyyed-Mohammadi to Korea.

While staying in Korea, it visited Mangyongdae and toured the West Sea barrage and Pyongyang metro.

Arms Buildup Before Olympics Criticized

SK100631 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2153 GMT 9 Feb 88

[NODONG SINMUN 10 February commentary: "Arms Buildup Under the Disguise of the Olympics"]

[Text] The sinister maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys to badly exploit the 24th Olympic games for the purpose of division and war have become more apparent with each passing day.

Having clamored that they would mobilize all human and material resources of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force in South Korea for the security of the Olympics, the U.S. imperialists have finally revealed their sinister plan for the mobilization of armed forces.

According to a report of THE NEW YORK TIMES carried by a foreign news agency, the Reagan government of the United States has recently made public a so-called plan for military deployment in South Korea and around the Korean peninsula, which was mapped out for so-called success in the Olympics. According to this plan, the United States will send 1 or 2 aircraft carriers escorted by some 10 ships into the waters near the Korean peninsula, move U.S. Air Force planes at the Okinawa base to air bases in South Korea and have them join aircraft there, mobilize amphibious marine battalions there, and fly reconnaissance planes and satellites for surveillance activities during the period of the Olympic games under the excuse of countering someone's possible provocations.

Meanwhile, the South Korean puppet traitors, in connection with the Olympics, are placing the entire area of South Korea under the state of massive military vigilance, in which suppressive armed forces are rampant, and are frantically kicking up war rackets while organizing and deploying a so-called 1988 Olympic guard unit with approximately 120,000 forces and all types of armed equipment.

The maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, who are sharply augmenting armed forces of aggression in South Korea under the pretext of the security of the Olympics, are open state terrorism and reckless military frenzy. Also, they are a truculent insult to peace and the ideal of the Olympic movement and a malicious challenge to and provocation against us who are making sincere efforts to turn the situation on the Korean peninsula this year in favor of peace and the peaceful reunification of the country.

The acts of the U.S. imperialists show that the United States is the virtual master of the 24th Olympic games. The U.S. imperialists' maneuvers of arms augmentation unreservedly expose why they hatched up all kinds of schemes to have South Korea decided as the venue of the 24th Olympic games and why they have resorted to all tricks to bar them from being cohosted. Their purpose is, after all, to make the Olympics a mere means to strengthen the policy of occupying South Korea, push ahead with their maneuvers to concoct two Koreas, and accelerate preparations for a new war, a nuclear war, on the Korean peninsula, and is to reduce them to a prey to their policy of division and war.

How can the games, which are to be held where tremendous armed forces of aggression and such murderous weapons as nuclear and chemical weapons are crammed on the ground, in the sky, and in the waters and where military suppression is rampant, be called a festival of peace?

The maneuvers for arms buildup of the U.S. imperialists, who are trying to take the Olympic games as a toy for their aggressive purpose, are a grave crime and can never be tolerated.

The U.S. imperialist warmaniacs are hurriedly working to stage the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise, a test nuclear war against us, in South Korea and its vicinal areas. This war exercise will reportedly continue until May. If colossal armed forces of aggression—including the U.S. imperialists' fleet of aircraft carriers, aircrafts, and marines—storm into South Korea and conduct operations for the security of the Olympics in the wake of this exercise, we cannot foresee the day when gun smoke clears. As a matter of fact, no one knows when this war exercise and arms buildup will expand into actual warfare.

The U.S. imperialists are a group of aggressive forces which is only seeking for an opportunity to conduct armed invasion against the northern half of the Republic. What exists on the Korean peninsula is the threat of northward invasion. The threat of southward invasion is nothing but a false fabrication cooked up to veil this.

The United States is held totally responsible for the aggravation of tension on the Korean peninsula and an increase in the danger of war at present. The incident of the South Korean passenger airliner, which was fabricated under the behind-the-scenes manipulation of the U.S. imperialists, and the vociferous anti-Republic smear rackets are adding another tension to tension.

The U.S. imperialists, the aggressors, must immediately stop the maneuvers of arms buildup and withdraw from South Korea, taking with them all armed forces of aggression, including U.S. troops and nuclear weapons.

Paper Labels Plans as 'Horrible'

SK100319 Pyongyang KCNA in English
2222 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Pool item]

[text] Pyongyang February 9 (KCNA)—The Olympics is not for a showdown of military force and no arms buildup is needed for the Olympics, says NODONG SINMUN today in a commentary.

The author of the commentary says:

The South Korean authorities are making haste with a plan to organize "88 Olympic security guards" with 120,000 troops and more than 117,000 pieces of special equipment, including some 10,000 strong "task force" and more than 60,000 "military and police joint security guards," allegedly to cope with possible "emergency" with the forthcoming Olympics as an occasion.

The United States plans to thrust one or two aircraft carriers with 6-10 escort ships around the coastal waters of South Korea, bring the Okinawa-based warplanes to airforce bases in South Korea and mobilize amphibious marine combat battalions into South Korea on the occasion of the Olympics.

The plan to stage the Olympic games in a horrible circumstance like a wartime where armed forces several times greater than sportsmen and officials are deployed on the ground and warships and planes capable of carrying nuclear weapons are on the sea and in the sky is something unprecedented in the nearly 100 year old Olympic history.

Such Olympics will leave a more disgraceful blot than that of the Berlin Olympics under Nazism which was used in militarizing and fascistizing society and laying a fuse for the Second World War.

It is not conjecture that if the South Korean "regime" faces a crisis, the United States and South Korean authorities try to find a way out in a war against the North, host the Olympics under firearms and go over to a war against the North, stresses the paper.

U.S. Insults of South People Denounced

SK090423 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0409 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—American writer Onoko contributed to the entertainment magazine ROLLING STONE an article insulting the South Koreans, a UPI report from Los Angeles said.

In the article entitled "Friend in Seoul" he said South Koreans were like "robots with a dish-shaped face and had briquet-black eyes."

This high-handed act can be done only by those who are obsessed with subjugation, domination, maltreatment and exploitation of other nations. It reflects the contempt of the U.S. imperialist aggressors for the South Korean people.

It is not the first time the yankees insulted the South Koreans.

Former U.S. ambassador to Seoul Walker described the dissidents and students of South Korea as "innocent kids," former commander of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces Wickham called the South Korean people "field mice" and incumbent U.S. ambassador to Seoul Lilley called patriotic students "Korean monkeys."

Those unpardonable utterances met with protests of the South Korean people.

Far from drawing a lesson, the yankee writer unhesitatingly insulted the South Koreans in an article. This shows that the U.S. imperialist aggressors are greatly displeased with the South Korean people's strong anti-American sentiments for independence.

Such vulgar words will only deepen the antipathy of the South Korean people against the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

Daily Criticizes U.S. Star Wars Program

SK101100 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1043 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—It is to gain "nuclear superiority" in the outer space and achieve world supremacy that the U.S. imperialists are pushing on with the extremely dangerous and adventurous "Star Wars Program" under the veil of "strategic defense initiative," stresses NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article.

The article says:

It is their invariable, aggressive design to dominate the world by "nuclear superiority."

They have zealously developed nuclear weapons and are developing new-type ones with redoubled vigor.

The point at issue is that, after the conclusion of a treaty on partial nuclear disarmament, they are overheatedly developing and testing other types of nuclear weapons allegedly to make up for the ensuing gap. The "Star Wars Program" is part of such moves.

The manufacture of mass destruction weapons is also stepped up in the domain of chemical weapons. The U.S. imperialists are scheming to equip their armed forces with more efficient conventional weapons of new type.

There has been no change in their aggressive nature. "Disarmament" and "peace" on their lips are nothing but an empty talk.

If they truly want "disarmament" and "peace," they must eliminate nuclear weapons not in some particular areas but in all parts of the world and discontinue the arms race and military expansion.

'Team Spirit' Termed 'Heinous' Challenge
SK100441 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0419 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors planned to mobilize armed forces more than 200,000 strong in the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises, a preliminary war and a test nuclear war to be staged from February to May together with the South Korean puppets, according to a foreign press report from Washington.

Of the huge armed forces the U.S. imperialist aggression forces account for more than 60,000 men and the South Korean puppet army for more than 140,000 men.

At the same time, the U.S. imperialists are trying to hold a war game simulating an allout nuclear attack from the ground, air and sea with the mobilization of various kinds of warplanes, aircraft carriers and many other warships.

Facts show that on the plea of the Olympics the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique intend to make one step forward in intensified arms buildup and completion of nuclear war preparations for forestalling nuclear strikes at the DPRK and other socialist countries.

This is a heinous challenge to the Korean and other peaceloving peoples of the world who are struggling to realize disarmament on the Korean peninsula to avert the danger of nuclear war and preserve world peace and achieve the peaceful reunification of Korea. It reveals of

its own accord that the U.S. imperialists and the puppets are interested only in arms buildup and nuclear war preparations to increase the tensions.

Those who like to play with fire are destined to be burnt to death.

If the U.S. imperialists venture to bring the dark clouds of war in defiance of our warnings, our people would administer thousand-fold retaliatory strikes and death to them.

Hong Si-hak Attends Hamhung Protest Rally
SK100933 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0500 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] A Hamhung City mass rally to denounce the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique and their nuclear war maneuvers was held at the Hamhung Grand Theater.

Slogans reading "We sternly denounce the nuclear war maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean fascist military clique!" and "Let us vigorously step up production and construction to help the compatriots in the South who are waging a bloody struggle!" and posters reflective of our people's revolutionary will and determination to expel the U.S. imperialists and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland were hung at the rally site.

Comrade Hong Si-hak, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, responsible secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial WPK Committee, and chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee; Pak Se-in, vice chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of the South Hamgyong Province; responsible functionaries of the local party and power organs, administrative and economic organs, and working organizations; and deans of colleges were present at the rally, along with people of all strata in the city.

At the rally, Vice Chairman Pak Se-in spoke.

Saying that, at a time when we have put forth the proposal for a North-South joint conference with a single mind to make this a historic year in which a new opportunity is provided for national reconciliation and unity between the North and South and as we awaited an affirmative reply from the South, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique have answered with the announcement of plans to stage the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise, a large-scale nuclear war exercise, the speaker sternly denounced the wretches with surging animosity and indignation. He went on: [Begin Pak Se-in recording] We cannot but counter with high animosity and high revolutionary vigilance such an aggressive and antinational act of answering with a

large-scale joint military exercise our sincere and earnest peace proposal to make this a historic year during which a new opportunity is provided for national reconciliation and unity.

The "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets will bring the situation on the Korean peninsula even closer to the dangerous brink of war and bring North-South relations to the worst irretrievable state.

We will never look upon such a state, in which the situation on the Korean peninsula is developing into such a serious phase, with folded hands and will sternly counter the provocative military moves of the enemies.

We will fight over and over to check and frustrate the joint military exercise that could escalate into a new war, a nuclear war, on the Korean peninsula.

Our people cherish national sovereignty and dignity more than anything else. The U.S. imperialists must clearly know that our people are not those who would be frightened by nuclear weapons, and that the forcible logic of strength never works with our people.

Before being expelled from South Korea through the struggle of the peace-loving people of the world, they must return to their homes without a day's delay, along with their nuclear weapons and all other aggressive weapons.

I sternly warn that the persons in authority in South Korea must immediately halt their anti-Republic commotions of intrigue in following the nuclear war policy of the U.S. imperialists and aggravating internal confrontation and tension in the nation, and that they will have to assume full responsibility for all the consequences of such provocative commotions.

Today, the people in the northern half of the republic face the heavy but honorable task of further increasing revolutionary vigilance in countering the aggressive war maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys and accelerating the complete victory of socialism and the cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland in a tense and mobilized posture.

All party members and working people, under the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—should prepare themselves even more thoroughly as church-type revolutionaries who are boundlessly loyal to the great leader and our party. By upholding the great leader's new year address, they should vigorously carry on the grand march of construction in all sectors of the people's economy and glorify the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic as a grand festival of victors. [end recording]

U Yong-ho, representative of workers, spoke next.

He exposed that the U.S. imperialists are of late introducing more new high-performance nuclear weapons and shells and precision missiles into South Korea and are extensively expanding and building nuclear bases there, while openly clamoring about a so-called nuclear preemptive attack against the northern half of the republic. He went on to add: [Begin U Yong-ho recording] Today, after 30 years have passed since the U.S. imperialist aggressors first brought nuclear weapons into South Korea, our working class cannot repress its surging animosity and indignation over its enemy, the U.S. imperialists, who have brought the cloud of nuclear war over the nation.

In retrospect, the past 30 years, as the U.S. imperialists have run amok in seeking nuclear war, were days of crime during which all of South Korea has literally turned into a place where all kinds of nuclear weapons are concentrated and into the largest nuclear armory in the Far East.

I brand the U.S. imperialists' nuclear war provocation maneuvers to cause the extinction of our nation a most atrocious crime that can never be pardoned and I sternly denounce it.

The U.S. imperialists have crept into South Korea only to realize their aggressive objectives, disregarding whether the Korean people die or survive and disregarding whether the soil of our fatherland is ravaged or not. They have brought in nuclear weapons to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear war site.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors must clearly know the strong will of our people, who answer retaliation with retaliation and blood with blood.

Our people have the weapon of political and ideological unity, which is hundreds-fold stronger than atomic bombs or hydrogen bombs, and have invincible might that has been firmly nourished through our independence, self-reliance, and self-defense.

If the U.S. imperialists foolishly miscalculate our people's patient peace efforts as weakness and recklessly challenge, they will receive a thousandfold punishment and will fall into a pit of death from which they cannot extricate themselves. They will be buried for good after being burned in the fire they themselves have lit. [end recording]

Speaking next, Chon Song-hui, representative of the agricultural working people, stated that the U.S. imperialists are trying to put their already established plan of war of northward invasion into a real war with their vast nuclear forces by deciding to stage the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise until May. She stated that, because of this, an urgent situation in which a nuclear war may break out at any time is developing on the Korean peninsula. She went on to add: [Begin Chon Song-hui recording] Today, South Korea has turned into

the largest U.S. nuclear armory in the Far East, and into a place where the greatest danger of a nuclear war exists in the world. This is because of the atrocious anti-national act of the Chon Tu-Hwan-No Tae-u ring, the nuclear war servants of the U.S. imperialists.

Traitors Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, who stop at nothing in seeking their personal pleasure and welfare, ran amok in killing compatriots 8 years ago, while saying that it would be all right to kill 80% of Kwangju's citizens. Now, today, they are begging the United States for the introduction of more nuclear weapons, while saying that the extinction of the nation would be all right.

Moreover, they are unhesitatingly introducing into South Korea even neutron bombs, called the weapons of devil of the 20th century, which are rejected even by other puppets of the U.S. imperialists.

Thus, the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring is a group of national traitors who have not even a bit of national conscience and a group of colonial servants and fiendish murderers who do not hesitate to make all compatriots victims of a nuclear war, if demanded by their masters, the U.S. imperialists.

At this place where animosity surges, with burning national indignation, I sternly denounce the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring that tries to turn the Korean peninsula into a hotbed of global thermonuclear war and to plunge all of our soil and compatriots into a disastrous nuclear catastrophe. [shouts of slogans] [end recording]

Speaking next, Cho Hyon-hui, representative of the youths and students, stated that attention should be directed to the fact the U.S. imperialists will stage the adventurous nuclear war exercise commotions before the 1988 Seoul Olympics. He specifically exposed that they are trying to abuse the Seoul Olympics as a means to create two Koreas and to accelerate new preparations for a nuclear war, and trying to make it a replica of the Hitler's Berlin Olympics, which brought the flames of the World War II. He went on to add: [Begin Cho Hyun-hui recording] Today, the Korean peninsula is placed at the crossroads of peace and thermonuclear war.

Under circumstances in which the authority to use nuclear weapons is placed in the hands of the commander of the U.S. forces in South Korea and such a nation-selling traitor as No Tae-u is recklessly running amok, no one can foresee when the flames of nuclear war will rise. Why should our nation become a victim of the U.S. imperialists' nuclear war?

Through a pan-national struggle, we must sternly smash the U.S. imperialists' nuclear war maneuvers. We must achieve peace through struggle.

For all of those of compatriots in the North and the South and abroad who love the country and nation, now is indeed the time to unite as one and to firmly turn out in a pan-national anti-nuclear and anti-war struggle to withdraw nuclear weapons from South Korea and turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free peace zone, regardless of ideology, concept, system, and occupation.

The South Korean youths and students, as they have always taken the lead in rushing along the street of struggle in the past, should continue to uphold the banner of the anti-U.S. national salvation struggle and to even more broadly wage the struggle to smash the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise of the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring and their nuclear war provocation maneuvers. [shouts of slogans] [end recording]

The rally ended with the chorus of "The Guerrilla March."

Paper Says 'Consistency' Needed for Peace
SK091030 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1019 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 9 (KCNA)—It is our people's unanimous desire and noble purpose to achieve a durable and lasting peace on the Korean peninsula and other parts of the world, stresses NODONG SINMUN today.

The paper says:

The South Korean puppets in collusion with the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries are conducting the anti-DPRK smear campaign over the KAL incident. It is a premeditated provocation intended to besmirch the image of the DPRK which is always pursuing a peace-loving policy and impair her international authority and prestige.

A signed article entitled "To Safeguard Peace Is DPRK's Consistent Stand" says:

Loving peace is the noble trait of the Korean people who have a hatred for injustice and safeguard justice. They steadfastly defend and keep to their chajusong and fully respect the chajusong of other peoples.

The Korean people urgently demand peace to carry out their just cause.

It is a consistent stand and principle maintained by the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK to solve the Korean question not by means of war but by means of peace through dialogues and negotiations.

Proceeding from the demand of the Korean and world peoples, the WPK and the DPRK government call for the prohibition of test and production of nuclear weapons and their stockpile and use in all parts of the world, an end to arms race and expansion, the dismantling of imperialist military bases, withdrawal of imperialist armed forces, nuclear weapons and other destruction weapons from other countries, dissolution of aggressive military blocs, creation and expansion of nuclear-free, peace zones in different parts of the world and universal and complete disarmament.

The DPRK has nothing to do with terrorist acts, subversive activities, interference in internal affairs of other countries, slaughter of people and violation of the sovereignty of other countries and nations and all other criminal acts, inhuman and immoral.

The DPRK Government and people under the unfurled banner of independence, friendship and peace will in the future, too, make energetic efforts to achieve peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification and peace and security in Asia and other parts of the world in firm unity with peoples of socialist countries, non-aligned countries and all other peace-loving peoples of the world.

Commentary Assails Maneuvers in South
SK090432 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2148 GMT 8 Feb 88

[NODONG SINMUN 9 February commentary: "Vicious Military Rackets Kicked Up on the Pretext of the Olympics"]

[Text] Today, easing the strained situation on the Korean peninsula is not only the unanimous aspiration of the Korean people, but is also the unanimous demand of the peace-loving people of Asia and the world. Running counter to this, however, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean military, fascist elements are going toward the road of jeopardizing peace while further straining the situation on the Korean peninsula.

This was fully expressed by the fact that briefing traitors Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u on so-called new year policy programs on 5 and 6 February, puppet South Korean Defense Minister Chong Ho-yong clamored about so-called offensive military operations and the perfection of an ever-victorious war posture and a high-degree combat posture.

It has been well known that according to the theory of air-ground operations based on an offensive strategy advanced by the U.S. imperialists in the early eighties, they have deployed forward their troops of aggression and the puppet army in the areas near the Military Demarcation Line and have prepared for 3-dimensional operations of invasion against our Republic.

The puppets said that they had perfected a high-degree combat posture according to so-called offensive military operations. This is, after all, nothing but openly declaring that they have placed the frontal and rear areas under a constant posture of mobilization and have perfected an operative posture to launch a total invasion against our Republic together with the United States.

However, the grave nature of the situation is that these preparations for a war of northward invasion have been justified and have been more viciously perpetrated on the pretext of the Olympic games.

Under the pretext of coping with a possible emergency prior to the holding of the Olympic games, the South Korean puppets are hastening to organize the 1988 Olympic guard corps which are composed of approximately 120,000 forces, including 10,000-odd mobile strike forces and some 60,000 military and police forces, and which are equipped with 117,000 pieces of special equipment.

What cannot be overlooked is that the U.S. imperialist aggressors have vowed to sharply augment U.S. naval and air forces on the Korean peninsula and in its vicinal areas to cope with the Olympic games.

According to a 7 February report by the U.S. paper THE NEW YORK TIMES, the U.S. imperialists are trying to send 1 or 2 aircraft carriers, escorted by 6 to 10 ships, into the waters near South Korea, send U.S. planes from Okinawa, Japan, to air bases in South Korea, and mobilize a large number of amphibious combat marine forces into South Korea with the Olympics as an opportunity. This nakedly shows how maliciously the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique are accelerating arms buildup and preparations for a war of northward invasion by badly exploiting the Olympic games.

Not even a shadow of the lofty ideal and principle of the Olympiad, which is acknowledged as a festival of peace, can be found in South Korea. Attempting to hold the Olympic games in a horrendous wartime-like situation, in which armed soldiers numbering several times more than the number of athletes and officials are deployed, rifles and guns are crammed as densely as trees in the woods on the ground, and battleships and nuclear-carrying aircrafts are moving around in the sea and the sky, is a situation unprecedented in the nearly 100-year history of the Olympics. These Olympic games cannot but leave a more shameful stain than the Berlin Olympics under Nazism which were used for militarizing and fascistizing society and for preparing a fuse to ignite World War II.

Because of the criminal maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring that are using the Olympics for an impure political and military purpose, North-South confrontation has become extremely

acute at present, the situation on the Korean peninsula is dashing toward an unpredictably dangerous phase, and the lofty ideal of the Olympic movement is being severely mocked.

The Olympics are not a site for demonstrating armed forces and, therefore, arms buildup is unnecessary for the Olympics. The U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring is accelerating arms buildup, clamoring as if something would happen to the Olympics because of us. This is preposterous.

We have consistently demanded the cohosting of the 24th Olympic games. And there is still no change in this stand now. Some time ago, too, we proposed that a North-South joint conference be held and the question of cohosting the Olympics by the North and the South and several other pending issues be discussed and resolved at it. It is as clear as daylight that this poses no threat to (?holding) the Olympics.

As exposed by the puppet defense minister's policy briefings, there only exists on the Korean peninsula the threat of a war of northward invasion by the U.S. imperialists and the fascist clique that has perfected an offensive combat posture.

Since the first day when they gained the venue of the Olympics in South Korea, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean military hoodlums have frantically kicked up the rackets of militarizing and fascistizing South Korea and of perfecting a posture of attack on the North, babbling about the security of the Olympics. These maneuvers of the wretches have been more openly perpetrated since the U.S.-South Korean annual security consultative meeting last May.

Babbling about someone's threat of provocations anticipated prior to the Olympics, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets have drastically augmented armed forces of aggression, have increased the amount of war stockpiles, including new ammunitions, and have raved that they would further reinforce the "Team Spirit" war exercise in 1988 and 1989.

Having fabricated the incident of a passenger airliner to justify their policy of war, the U.S. imperialists and the fascist clique have unhesitatingly aggravated tension on the Korean peninsula in a deliberate manner, raving about retaliation and the like.

All facts clearly show that from the moment they dragged the Olympics into South Korea, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique sought to badly exploit them for concocting two Koreas, for maintaining and prolonging the pro-U.S. military dictatorial regime, and for perfecting preparations for a war of northward invasion and that they have actually done so.

South Korea is the largest U.S. forward nuclear base in the Far East where various kinds of some 1,000 nuclear weapons are deployed. The strained situation on the Korean peninsula has been further aggravated because the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean fascist clique have conducted reckless playing with fire, such as the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise simulating a nuclear attack on us, every year more frequently and on a larger scale.

In addition, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets are now trying to kick up frenzied rackets of arms buildup in the sky, in the sea, and on the ground under the pretext of the Olympics. Where on earth are they trying to lead the situation?

This year the drama of a so-called transfer of power—transferring and receiving power between military hoodlums—will be staged and the parliamentary elections will be held in South Korea. It is foreseen that another acute confrontation between democratic and fascist forces with these events as an occasion will be inevitable. This situation can also affect the Olympic games.

It is never a random guess that when crises in the pro-U.S. military, fascist regime are created, the U.S. imperialists and the fascist clique can find a way out of them from a war of northward invasion at any time and that they can switch over to the road of a war of northward invasion right after they hold the Olympics amid threats with rifles and guns.

The criminal maneuvers of the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring, which is badly exploiting the international Olympics, a festival of peace and friendship, for security in their power and war provocation rackets, will never escape from denunciation at home and abroad.

History has a record of how Hitler, who abused the Olympics for the purpose of carrying out a war of aggression, was ruined.

Not to follow this precedent, the U.S. imperialists and the treacherous Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group must immediately stop the criminal maneuvers of using the Olympics for their dirty political purpose.

Various Views on No Tae-u's Policies

Politics Assessed as 'Crafty'
SK080453 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0440 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—The traitor No Tae-u invited foreign diplomatic envoys in Seoul to a party on February 4, at which he asked them for "cooperation" for a "successful holding of the Olympics" and, saying a "civilian democratic politics would take roots" during his tenure of office, hoped that they would "view it with warm eyes," according to a report from Seoul.

This is a crafty artifice to give a boost to himself who is called now a murderer even among foreigners.

It is ridiculous of a murderous military hooligan to talk about "civilian democratic politics."

As for the traitor No, he is a human-butcher who has engaged himself as a military gangster for 30 odd years in crackdown and murder against the people.

He cares nothing for the country and the nation and has no knowledge of politics. What he has learned is sword-brandishing and nothing else. However, he is talking about "civilian democratic politics." This reminds one of a wolf trying to imitate sheep's voice.

All the more exasperating is the fact that the traitor No that day clamoured about "accomplishment of democratization," that is, meaning that he would implement his "commitments to democratization."

In his so-called "June 29 declaration," a script written by his U.S. imperialist master, he had made quite a noise as if he would bring forth democracy in South Korea immediately, yet nothing has come of it. Instead, he is more furiously brandishing sword against the people.

Attempts To Check Student Movement

SK070821 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0814 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 7 (KCNA)—The traitor No Tae-u on February 5 told students that it was a "heavy loss" and "misfortune" for students to have "wasted their young energies in such things as demonstration" and that he would "do his best" to help the students become "absorbed in studies" in a "new era," according to a radio report from Seoul.

This is a crafty ruse to check the anti-American, anti-"government" action of the South Korean students and extend the military dictatorship without difficulty.

The description of the South Korean students' struggle as "waste of energies" is an intolerable insult to the patriotic students desirous of social justice.

By uttering he would "do his best" to help the students become "absorbed in studies," No Tae-u revealed his fascist intention to turn the campus into a concentration camp to bind the students hand and foot.

With nothing can No Tae-u quell the spirit of resistance of the students.

Police Morale Boosting Criticized

SK061040 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1029 GMT 6 Feb 88

["Traitor's Sword Brandish Precipitates His Doom"—KCNA headline; quotation marks as received]

[Text] Pyongyang February 6 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today lashes at the No Tae-u group for extensively reinforcing repressive forces allegedly to encourage "morale" of the puppet police and egging police gangsters on to crackdown on people.

Recalling that the traitor No Tae-u instructed the "Democratic Justice Party" to work out something like a "programme to encourage the morale" of puppet police and, according to this instruction, the party formed a "measure committee for police morale" and decided to take "steps" including financial assistance to the police, the author of a commentary of the paper says:

The buildup of repressive forces by the No Tae-u group suggests that No Tae-u will launch a vicious scorched earth operation against the forces opposing the extension of the military rule and against the people who demand social independence and democracy, right after he takes the "presidential" chair.

He is, in actuality, indiscriminately arresting and punishing those who demand the nullification of the fraudulent election, etc. before coming to power.

All facts show that although he talks about "commitments to democracy" and "great people's concord", he has only a blackhearted intention to mercilessly suppress and stamp out the forces obstructive to the extension of the military rule and his treacherous rule.

He tries to block the struggle of the people at the point of bayonet in a bid to take over the power without difficulty and maintain it, but it will be in vain.

His reckless sword-brandish will only precipitate his doom.

Article Calls for Spirit of Mt Paektu

SK081222 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0720 GMT 1 Feb 88

[NODONG SINMUN 2 February Special Article: "Let Us Brilliantly Inherit the Revolutionary Spirit Highly Displayed in the Forests of Mt Paektu"]

[Text] Today, all the people throughout the country have unanimously and vigorously launched into the all-out march to accelerate socialist construction, upholding the New Year's address of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. Today's all-out march is not only the continuation of the chuche road march that started in the forests

of Paektu at the dawn of our revolution, but is also the majestic struggle for socialist construction to fully demonstrate the might and dignity of the chuche fatherland.

To advance our revolution to a new high stage by further stepping up this rewarding march movement, all party members and the working people should firmly arm themselves with the anti-Japanese revolutionary tradition, the revolutionary spirit of Paektu.

The revolutionary spirit displayed in the forests of Paektu occupies (?major part) of the revolutionary tradition of our party and is the infinitely precious ideological and spiritual asset which makes it possible for our people to break through any difficulties and trials. Only when our people advance toward the future, as in the past, firmly grasping and cherishing the revolutionary spirit, can they surmount any trials and brilliantly carry out any historic tasks, however complicated they may be.

1. The revolutionary spirit displayed in the forests of Paektu is a mighty ideological and spiritual weapon that our people should highly take up forever to complete the chuche cause.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, has indicated: To complete, to the end and generation after generation, the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, we should emulate the lofty revolutionary spirit of the young communists who, holding the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem as the center of unity and leadership, struggled at the risk of their lives to implement his ideology and line at the dawn of our revolution.

For the people who carry out the revolution, nothing is more important than to possess a resolute revolutionary spirit. The revolution is arduous and requires a tough will, indomitable fighting spirit, and stubborn practical ability. Only when the people possess their revolutionary fighting spirit can they advance along the road of revolution and brilliantly complete the socialist and communist cause without the slightest degree of faltering under all difficult circumstances.

The course of inheriting and completing the revolutionary cause is essentially a course in which the people carry out revolution and construction under the leadership of the leader, cherishing a genuine revolutionary spirit in their hearts and taking it as their ideological and spiritual source.

As the chuche idea elucidates, ideology decides everything. The masses who have not been indoctrinated ideologically cannot launch into the revolutionary struggle. The people who have failed to arm themselves with the spirit of revolutionary struggle cannot surmount difficulties nor complete the revolution to the end.

The might of the popular masses, the invincibility of the revolutionary cause, is precisely the might and invincibility of the revolutionary spirit. The revolutionary spirit that our people are inheriting today is the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, a great revolutionary spirit, which the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song planted in the hearts of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters at the dawn of the Korean revolution.

At the time when our fatherland and nation were in a crucial time in history, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song opened the glorious origin of our revolution under the banner of the chuche idea and fostered numerous chuche-type communist revolutionaries with the indomitable revolutionary spirit. The labor and efforts the great leader devoted to fostering genuine revolutionary fighters and indoctrinating and organizing the popular masses in the period of arduous anti-Japanese struggle in the past, are countless.

In the respected and beloved leader's bosom, characterized by infinite devotion to the revolution, great practical ability, broad-minded capacity, and warm love; numerous revolutionary fighters, who think only of the party, the leader, and the revolution, were born and the solid and lofty revolutionary spirit that our people should emulate generation after generation was created.

This is why our people not only think of the greatness of the respected and beloved leader first whenever they recall the days of anti-Japanese struggle and whenever they think of the great tradition of the revolutionary spirit, but also deem that emulating the spirit of the revolutionary struggle displayed by the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionary patriots is precisely a glorious task to emulate the great leader's noble ideological and spiritual traits.

The revolutionary spirit of Paektu that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song planted in the hearts of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters is now shining as our people's invincible and great banner. The greatness of the revolutionary spirit displayed in the forests of Paektu lies in its lofty, enriched contents and its extraordinary driving force.

For the revolutionary spirit to become a mighty and immortal one, it should become a model spirit that the people can emulate generation after generation and, at the same time, it should contain all ideological and spiritual assets that can not only foster all members of the society to become genuine communist revolutionaries of chuche type, but also lead and inspire the revolutionary cause of the working class to the end. Along with this, it should have the extraordinary power of influence that can move the hearts of the popular masses.

Such a spirit that fails to move the hearts of the popular masses, including workers and farmers; that fails to give strength to them; and that has significance only in

certain periods of the revolution and construction cannot become an eternal spirit. The revolutionary spirit displayed in the forests of Paektu is a great revolutionary spirit unprecedented in history because of its noble and rich contents.

This revolutionary spirit, the core of which is boundless loyalty to the leader of the revolution, established a new revolutionary view of life that the true worth of human life is defined not by life span but by how faithfully one has fought for the party, the leader, and the revolution. It also indicated on the highest plane all the noble ideological and spiritual traits that could be displayed by communists in the course of the revolution.

The revolutionary spirit of the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters which included an indomitable stand and attitude of upholding the leader; a firm faith in victory and unshaken, indomitable fighting spirit; and a burning hatred against the enemies; was a model spirit displayed in the highest plane.

In particular, this revolutionary spirit, a revolutionary spirit of *chuche* shining with independence and creation, based on the *chuche* idea, is a priceless one of universal significance in firmly establishing *chuche* in ideology, in all fields of the revolution and construction, and in any period and under whatever circumstances of socialist and communist construction.

The revolutionary spirit displayed in the forests of Paektu is lofty and noble in its content and has an extraordinary influential power. The fighting spirit of the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries is by no means an abstract one. It is the revolutionary spirit that registered great practical achievements in the struggle to provide historic roots of our party and smash the Japanese imperialist aggressors in the days of anti-Japanese revolutionary war. Therefore, the appearance of the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries' heroic struggle is still alive in the hearts of our people today.

One can give cheers, stand at the head of others, and perform exploits if his situation and living condition are good and when victory is repeated. However, continuing the indomitable struggle for more than 2 decades in the arduous days of anti-Japanese struggle during which we had neither a party nor government was by no means an easy job. Because of this, we say that the fighting spirit of the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries is a spirit which is more indomitable and stronger than that displayed in the peace days.

The greatness and invincible vitality of the revolutionary spirit displayed in the forests of Paektu have already been fully proven through the past scores of years of our revolutionary practice.

Even after the completion of the sacred cause of national liberation, the course of our revolution was still arduous. However, under the leadership of the party, our people

have been able to embroider the 40-odd years of difficult and complicated creation and construction with proud victory and unfold the heroic epic of the great Chollima upsurge on this land by resolutely struggling, and firmly grasping the anti-Japanese revolutionary tradition, the fighting spirit of the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries. Last year, too, our people were able to rapidly carry out large-scale capital construction and vigorously open the breakthrough of the Third 7-Year Plan by upholding the party's leadership and by firmly arming themselves with the anti-Japanese revolutionary tradition, the revolutionary spirit of Paektu.

Reality shows that when we vigorously advance forward, taking the anti-Japanese revolutionary tradition, the fighting spirit of the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries, as firm faith, we can not only successfully carry out any difficulty and any vast task which arises in the revolution and construction, but also carry out the revolutionary cause of *chuche* to the end.

The revolutionary spirit displayed in the forests of Paektu is indeed the revolutionary fighting spirit with which the Korean communists and people rescued the destiny of the nation and firmly defended the country's sovereignty under the leadership of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song. It is also not only a great revolutionary spirit that has built a powerful socialist country of independence, self-reliance, and self-defense on this land by strengthening the subject of the revolution by all means, but also an eternal banner of encouragement that vigorously leads our people to the brilliant future of communism.

Carrying out the revolution with this great revolutionary spirit, which makes it possible to carry out our revolution to the end under any difficult circumstances, is precisely our people's great glory and pride.

2. The anti-Japanese revolutionary tradition, the revolutionary spirit displayed in the forests of Paektu, is today cherished deep in the hearts of our party members and the working people as their firm faith, and it is being brilliantly inherited as the revolution advances.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Today, all party members constantly temper their party spirit by learning and following the ideology, work style, and moral traits of the anti-Japanese partisans who pioneered the road of national liberation.

Carrying out the revolutionary cause of *chuche* to the end by firmly arming themselves with the great *chuche* idea is precisely the firm determination and will of our party members and working people. Cherishing in their hearts these fervent aspirations and ardent desires, our party members and working people fully display peerless massive heroism on all fronts of socialist construction as did the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries. They are also vigorously waging the struggle to become the Kim Hyok and Cha Kwang-su of the eighties.

Since the origin of our revolution was opened, half a century has passed. However, the revolutionary spirit displayed at that time has still not only been planted deep in the hearts of the people generation after generation, but has also firmly turned into a pan-national and a pan-social spirit. This is indeed a significant reality. Thanks to such a reality, an infinitely bright future is being unfolded before our fatherland, nation, and revolution. At the same time, the final victory of the *chuche* cause has been firmly guaranteed.

With the brilliant inheritance of the great fighting tradition and spirit of the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries, the tradition of the kindred unity of the leader, the party, and the masses in our revolution has come to be defended generation after generation. The revolution begins with unity and is completed over the course during which the tradition of unity is inherited. Apart from unity, we cannot think of the revolution. Likewise, apart from inheriting the tradition of unity, we cannot think of the bright future of the revolution.

The Korean revolution achieved the great tradition of the most solid cohesion and unity and kindred ties between the leader and the people already at its dawn. For the creation of this glorious tradition, the young communists and the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters struggled, shedding blood and sacrificing their lives, on the wide plain of Manchuria.

The future of our revolution depends on how purely we can defend and inherit this noble tradition of unity achieved in blood by the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries. It can be firmly guaranteed only when all of the people firmly arm themselves with the anti-Japanese revolutionary spirit, because inheriting the tradition of unity is essentially synonymous with inheriting the spirit of having achieved that unity.

In our country today, all the people are vigorously struggling, not forgetting the basis of the revolution, and the noble spirit of unity achieved at the dawn of our revolution is being inherited.

The slogan, "Let us defend the (?heart) of the anti-Japanese revolution" that the young communists held aloft over the course of safeguarding and defending the great general, the center of unity, politically, ideologically, and in life is flying today as the banner of loyalty and glory. Today, our party members and working people are upholding the party and the leader with clean consciousness and will as did the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries. They are firmly united based on absolute loyalty to the leader as were martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries. Thus, in our revolution today, there is only one center of unity, one center of leadership, as at its dawn. Today, the people's heart for upholding the center of unity remains invariable. This shows that the noble tradition of unity in our revolution has been invariably and smoothly inherited generation after generation. In particular, all party members and the working

people have firmly armed themselves with the *chuche* idea and have resolutely safeguarded and defended the idea as did the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries. As a result, the purity of unity of our revolutionary ranks has become purity that cannot be blemished by anything.

The foundation of the unity of our revolutionary ranks is the great *chuche* idea. Therefore, the firm guarantee that makes it possible to inherit forever the precious tradition of our revolution lies precisely in advancing forward, firmly grasping only the *chuche* idea. Being clearly aware of this, our people have rejected any ideological element that runs counter to the *chuche* idea and have never allowed it to infiltrate into our society.

As long as all our people firmly arm themselves with the great *chuche* idea and struggle, firmly trusting in only their leader, as did the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries, the precious tradition of unity of our revolution will be consistently inherited under all difficult circumstances.

As the great fighting tradition and spirit of the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries have been brilliantly inherited, our party, with its deep historic roots, has been constantly strengthened and developed into a party that carries out the revolution and a party that carries out struggle.

The revolutionary-mindedness and might of the party of the working class are the decisive factor that determines the future of the revolution. They are constantly enhanced only when the revolutionary spirit displayed at the dawn of the revolution is inherited generation after generation.

A party in which the revolutionary spirit that overflowed at the time of taking its historic root fails to be inherited as it was can be said to be a party that has lost its revolutionary-mindedness. In our party, the work of inheriting the revolutionary spirit displayed at the dawn of the revolution, that is, the revolutionary spirit displayed in the forests of Paektu, has been consistently carried out at the highest level. As a result, today, our party is full of the anti-Japanese revolutionary spirit, and new progress has been made in the work of strengthening the revolutionary-mindedness and might of the party.

All the character and might of our party, as the party carries out the revolution today, originated over the course of succeeding the lofty revolutionary spirit of Paektu and inheriting it. The indomitable fighting spirit and iron-like will of our party, which has vigorously broken through all difficulties and trials with its own strength, have been inherited from the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, and the extraordinary courage of unfolding and practicing bold operations is also precisely inheriting the anti-Japanese struggle spirit.

Apart from the might of our party inheriting the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, we cannot think that such an edifice of long-range planning as the Sohae lockgate could be built in only 5 years and that unprecedentedly large-scale construction projects are being successfully accelerated today.

By continuing to uphold the banner of anti-imperialist struggle that originated in the forests of Paektu, our party is bringing into relief its character as a revolutionary party, a struggling party.

Our party's resolute anti-imperialist stand has been invariable, not only as it took historic root, but also at present. By completely inheriting the anti-Japanese revolutionary tradition of having struggled against the Japanese imperialist aggressors with firm faith in the certain victory of socialism and communism and with revolutionary principles, our party has not only assumed a stern revolutionary attitude against the imperialists, including the U.S. imperialists, but has also never allowed the enemies' economic, ideological, and cultural infiltration, even to the slightest degree.

It is due to such a principled struggle by our party that despite the escalation of maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and their stooges for aggression and their ideological and cultural offensives, peace and security have been preserved and everything is developing soundly according to our own style in the country today.

Reality shows that a party that has inherited the revolutionary struggle tradition and spirit created and displayed at the dawn of the revolution and which brilliantly develops them never loses its revolutionary-mindedness under any circumstances and that the future of the revolution carried out under the leadership of such a party will be infinitely bright and promising.

That our entire party and the whole of our society overflow with revolutionary struggle spirit and a sound and vivacious revolutionary atmosphere today is another proud reality that has unfolded over the course of inheriting the noble struggle tradition and spirit of the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries.

The prospects of the revolution emphatically depend on the revolutionary-mindedness and soundness of society. The revolutionary-mindedness and soundness of society are an important barometer of the solidity, might, and prospects of that society. Only when the society seethes with a sound and revolutionary spirit and atmosphere can the people become sound, the country seethe, and the revolution constantly develop. Therefore, in opening bright prospects for the revolution, the party of the working class and the people should concentrate great efforts on enhancing the revolutionary-mindedness of the society and on ensuring its soundness.

What is important for the people in enhancing the revolutionary-mindedness of the society is to firmly arm them with the revolutionary struggle spirit displayed at the dawn of the revolution and to inherit the spirit generation after generation. This is because the revolutionary spirit created and displayed at the dawn of the revolution has been continuously displayed amid the fierce class struggle for a new society, a new system, and a new revolution, therefore, has very high revolutionary-mindedness.

In our country, the struggle to learn and follow the struggle spirit of the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionaries has been constantly deepened under the leadership of the party and, as a result, the revolutionary-mindedness and soundness of society have been firmly established on the highest plane.

A new turn has been effected over the course of implementing our party's revolutionary slogan, "Production, study, and life—all in the manner of the anti-Japanese guerrillas," in particular and in the struggle to enhance the ideological and spiritual traits of our people and the revolutionary-mindedness of society.

The revolutionary struggle spirit, ethos, and method that seethed in the forests of Paektu firmly prevail in our society today and, thus, the flames of creation and innovation and the flames of the speed battle burn strongly everywhere in our country. The revolutionary slogans that spur the people to win greater victory are a common sight throughout the country, the militant songs overflowing with firm faith and romanticism echo throughout the country, and the noble and good morals and manner of thinking of the party, the revolution, fellow comrades, and groups first flower in our society.

The extreme egoism that pursues merely one's own benefit and bourgeois democracy is still rampant throughout the world. Because people have become the slaves of money and many people lead corrupt and degraded lives, morality in society is constantly being destroyed. Considering this, we can be proud that we have built a revolutionary society filled with noble revolutionary spirit.

In particular, our new generations are excellently preparing themselves to become reliable revolutionary heirs who would like to carry out the revolution over the course of inheriting the spirit of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters. This is indeed something in which we should take pride.

The noble spirit of youths to seek and dash to the difficult outposts en masse according to the demands of the party and the revolution, willingly dedicating their blood and flesh for the comrades, and the sincere traits of youths who make every effort to improve their towns and communities, noting that they should not allow the

blood shed by their parents to lose value, represent the excellent spirit that can be found only among our new generations, who are fighting as did the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters.

Indeed, the brilliant tradition of the anti-Japanese revolution and the lofty revolutionary spirit of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters brought about great realities to this land. Our people came to possess an indomitable party and the great unity and cohesion of the revolutionary ranks that have been inherited generation after generation with purity along the path of firmly arming ourselves with the revolutionary spirit of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters and of embodying such spirit. We have built a most solid society that overflows with lively revolutionary spirit and traits for struggle and the chuche-oriented socialist system.

This is the most precious gain of our revolution that cannot be bartered for anything and that serves as a permanent foundation that enables our people to be ever-victorious.

As long as there is such a mighty foundation being strengthened and developed with each passing day together with the indomitable vitality of the anti-Japanese revolutionary spirit, we have nothing to fear and only victory and glory lie before us.

3. For communists and people who carry out the revolution, the past and present are important. However, the hopeful tomorrow is more precious.

We are people who are carrying out the revolution and who should accomplish the chuche cause by following the party and the leader forever. It is indeed important for us, who should cross the burning river and brave the rugged road to deeply cherish the revolutionary tradition of the anti-Japanese struggle and the noble revolutionary spirit of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters.

Today we live in the important period when we should more firmly arm ourselves with the revolutionary tradition of the anti-Japanese struggle and with the revolutionary spirit of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters. The objective circumstances of our revolution are still acute and complex and the revolutionary tasks laid before us are very difficult and enormous.

Under such circumstances, the only path along which we can advance the revolution and construction in our own way to overcome all difficulties that can possibly be laid before us and adhere to the independent position is for all the people to fight, as did the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, by adopting the revolutionary tradition of the anti-Japanese struggle as firm faith.

The cause of strengthening the subject of the revolution in all aspects and remodeling the entire party membership and the entire society on the chuche idea, the struggle to effect great revolutionary upsurges in socialist

construction and accelerate the complete victory of socialism, and the issue of solidifying the chuche socialist system as firm as a rock and comprehensively demonstrating its superiority all depend largely on how firmly our people adhere to the revolutionary tradition of the anti-Japanese struggle and the noble revolutionary spirit of the fallen anti-Japanese revolutionaries. Hence our party, since first leading the revolution and construction, has placed emphasis on the work of inheriting the revolutionary tradition and of learning from the noble revolutionary spirit of the fallen anti-Japanese revolutionaries as fundamental work connected with the destiny of the party and the revolution and energetically leads this work.

Many works produced by our party, including "The WPK Is a Chuche-Type Revolutionary Party That Inherits the Glorious Down-With-Imperialism Union Tradition" and "On Some Problems in the Education of the Chuche Idea," contain our party's firm determination and will to complete our revolution to the end by adhering to the chuche revolutionary tradition and by vigorously struggling as did the fallen anti-Japanese revolutionaries. We should bear the party's intent deep in our minds, not forget the foundation of the revolution despite the passage of time and the improving living conditions, and actively conduct the work of learning from the noble revolutionary spirit of the fallen anti-Japanese revolutionaries at a new higher stage.

Above all, we should cherish deep in our hearts the spirit of absolute loyalty of the fallen anti-Japanese revolutionaries who upheld the leader of the revolution with revolutionary faith and fidelity. Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, has noted: As the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters upheld the great Comrade Kim Il-song, so all party members, workers, and the succeeding generation should uphold the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song generation to generation and cherish the absolute loyalty of following any road directed by the party and the leader, even if it consists of mountains and marshes.

In the revolution, the leader plays a decisive role. The leader is not an individual, but the supreme brain of the socio-political group, the center of cohesion of the popular masses, and the center of leadership. Without the leadership of the party and the leader, the popular masses have never been able to overcome difficult trials in the revolution, nor have they been victorious. Therefore, the communists and the people should firmly uphold the leader of the revolution, making it their utmost demand of life.

During the pioneering era of our revolution, the anti-Japanese revolutionaries created a shining example of upholding the leader of the revolution. During the days of fierce warfare, when they had to fight several battles each day, the anti-Japanese revolutionaries who kept the secret of the headquarters, dashing to hand-to-hand

combat with smiles on their faces, saying that the headquarters is safe when the bulk of the enemy's massive troops was directed toward them, and cutting their own tongues when they were not allowed to commit suicide—they were the paragon of the true loyalty hardly to be found elsewhere in the history of the communist movement.

We should learn from this noble loyalty of fallen anti-Japanese revolutionaries and firmly trust and follow our party, no matter what trials we may face, and remain endlessly loyal to the party's leadership.

Our party, which came into bloom from the deep and strong roots of the anti-Japanese revolution, is an ever-victorious revolutionary party that has been strengthened as strong as iron over the course of development through the grim tempestuous trials of the revolution, and a great guiding force that leads the overall Korean revolution along the ever-victorious road. Herein where we uphold our party's leadership and thoroughly implement the party's will lies the decisive guarantee to accelerate the reunification of the fatherland and the complete victory of socialism and to build, at an early date, the communist paradise yearned for by the fallen anti-Japanese revolutionaries.

All party members and working people should devote everything they have to the struggle to resolutely defend and protect our party politically and ideologically amid whatever environment they find themselves, to unite more firmly around the party, and to realize the party's idea and intent. The revolutionary spirit demonstrated in the forest of Paektu in the past is a thorough spirit of independence and a revolutionary spirit of self-reliance in which one overcomes all difficulties with one's own strength.

Holding more aloft the revolutionary banner of self-reliance on all fronts of socialist construction today is another of the important demands to live and struggle as did the fallen anti-Japanese revolutionaries. All party members among working people should learn from the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance of the fallen anti-Japanese revolutionaries who snatched weapons from the enemy with their bare hands when they had none, who made [word indistinct] bombs, and who broke up the enemy even by pushing rocks from hills, and vigorously accelerate the grand march of construction this year, making anything that they do not have and finding anything that they have fallen short of.

No doubt, we now have all the conditions and potential to make it possible to push ahead with the grand march of construction at high speed. We have a great party that leads socialist construction along the ever-victorious road with the most correct line and policy and bold operation and extraordinary organizational power, as well as a strong base for a self-reliant economy with which we can build any big creations by our own strength. This, however, does not mean that we can

achieve greater victory even if we do not work hard and wage an arduous struggle. The revolution continues and continuously puts forth high demands. We should accelerate the grand march of construction in which we have already made big steps forward, wage an arduous struggle to fulfill the Third 7-Year Plan at least 1 and 1/2 years ahead of schedule, achieve the complete victory of socialism and build a communist society ahead of others, and hold further aloft the revolutionary banner of self-reliance.

Our people are a tempered and refined heroic people who have overcome all difficulties and trials and trod an ever-victorious road under the party's leadership, and a people who take great pride and find reward in carrying out any difficult and vast historical task for themselves. All party members and working people should endlessly add luster to this valuable tradition, this proud tradition of self-reliance in today's grand march of construction. By so doing, they should vigorously create the fiery wind of the speed battle as they did to make the great leap forward to become socialist industrial state in only 14 years with the grand march of chollima, and demonstrate to the entire world once again the revolutionary spirit and wisdom of chuche Korea as they did to fulfill the vast 6-Year Plan more than a year ahead of schedule.

This is a significant year when we will greet the 40th anniversary of the founding of the glorious DPRK. During this rewarding year, we should all firmly establish the revolutionary outlook on the leader, prepare ourselves to be the Kim Hyok's and Cha Kwang-su's of the eighties, and become creators and innovators of the masses, thereby fulfilling our duty as people of the prestigious fatherland, chuche Korea.

Today's general march to accelerate the fulfillment of the Third 7-Year Plan and the complete victory of socialism—the magnificent grand march of socialist construction—is the continuation of the glorious chuche march in which the anti-Japanese revolutionaries accelerated the march of victory in the forests of Paektu. The banner hoisted aloft in the grand march of construction, as well as the spirit of struggle, today is the same banner and spirit they had then, and the targets we should attain in the grand march of construction are the more resplendent tomorrow dreamed of by the anti-Japanese revolutionaries in the forests of Paektu.

The magnificent march of our people who follow only one road—the chuche road of march—under the wise leadership of the great party and leader, whether it has the pioneering period of the revolution or today, cannot be blocked by any power. Let us all be filled with faith and optimism and, firmly adhering to the anti-Japanese revolutionary tradition—the Paektu revolutionary spirit—brilliantly fulfill this year's militant tasks as set forth by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his new year address.

Daily on 'Eternal Lifeline' of Revolution
SK101026 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1000 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a long, signed article entitled "Chuche Idea, Revolutionary Traditions and Unity—Eternal Lifeline of the Korean Revolution."

In the first part, the article says the chuche idea, the revolutionary traditions and unity are a priceless wealth of importance for victorious advance and realization of the Korean revolution. It continues:

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and secretary, of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, said:

"We must make not only the present generation but also the coming generations hold the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's ideology and theory as the eternal guiding ideology and theory of the party, stoutly defend his revolutionary exploits, struggle experience, revolutionary method of work and popular style of work and splendidly carry forward and complete the revolutionary cause of chuche."

Our party consistently holds the chuche idea, the revolutionary traditions and unity provided by the respected leader comrade Kim Il-song which are basic to the Korean revolution.

This is a most revolutionary policy which makes it possible to vigorously advance the Korean revolution along the path pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Only by following the path of revolution pioneered by the leader can the cause of the working class be brilliantly achieved. To this end the leader's ideology should be taken as the guiding ideology, the revolutionary traditions be carried forward and the unity be defended.

The chuche idea, the revolutionary traditions and the unity provided by Comrade Kim Il-song through long-drawn revolutionary practice are a priceless wealth for ultimate victory in the Korean revolution.

Firm adherence to the chuche idea, the revolutionary traditions and the unity provides a firm guarantee for strengthening the subject of the revolution in every way, and courageously pushing forward the cause of socialism and communism through trials.

Our party and people have made big progress in the realization of the revolutionary cause of chuche and creditably settled the question of the future of the revolution because of their adherence to and constant development of the chuche idea, the revolutionary traditions and the unity.

In the second part, the article says our glorious party is a great guide which is brilliantly carrying forward the cause of chuche in firm adherence to the chuche idea, the revolutionary traditions and the unity. It continues:

Our glorious party defined adherence to and constant development of the chuche idea, the revolutionary traditions and the unity provided by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song as an important question related to the future of our revolution and is brilliantly solving this question. The greatness and essential nature of our party are characterised by carrying forward the cause of chuche under the banner of the revolution in any adversity.

Our party defined constant development of the chuche idea, the revolutionary traditions and the unity as a most important task in party building and activity and subordinates everything to it.

The chuche idea, the revolutionary traditions and the unity are essential in all our party's ideological and theoretical activities and practice struggle.

Party work and activity are conducted as required by the chuche idea and the unity and cohesion of the party ranks based on one ideology is consolidated in the course of modelling the whole party on the chuche idea.

Our party is also resolutely defending the chuche idea, the revolutionary traditions and the unity.

Today our party defined adherence to the chuche idea, the revolutionary traditions and the unity as a most important question in defending the party and the revolution and is carrying forward and developing their purity.

Our party firmly defends the kindred unity between the leader, the party and the masses which was won by the Korean communists at the cost of their blood.

Our party's leadership aimed at holding fast to chuche idea, the revolutionary traditions and the unity is without vacillation in any situation and is invariable for good. It is characterised by a high sense of responsibility, revolutionary principle and a resolute ideology to carry to completion the revolutionary cause of the working class.

Our party is fully embodying the chuche idea and the revolutionary traditions in the revolution and construction and is pressing ahead with socialist construction in reliance on the unity of the leader, the party and the masses.

In the course of its leadership of the revolution in firm adherence to the chuche idea, the revolutionary traditions and the unity provided by Comrade Kim Il-song, our party has performed immortal feats for the time and

the revolution, the country and the people, and earned high dignity and authority as a tested revolutionary leader capable of carrying to completion the revolutionary cause of *chuche*.

'Three-Revolution Team Movement' Lauded
SK081041 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT
8 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Sunday dedicates a signed article to the 15th anniversary of the start of the three-revolution team movement, ideological, technical and cultural.

The article says:

The three-revolution team movement initiated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and led by our party is a powerful revolutionary guiding method of a new type.

Comrade Kim Il-song has taught:

"The three-revolution team movement is an efficient way of giving revolutionary leadership to accelerate the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions, by linking political and ideological leadership with scientific and technical guidance, getting superiors to help their subordinates and encouraging the working masses."

The 15 years from the start of the three-revolution team movement up to date are recorded with the energetic guidance of our party which has brought the three revolutions and the construction of socialism to a higher stage, consistently grasping this movement.

The victory and successes in carrying out the three revolutions and in the revolution and construction clearly testing to the validity of our party's policy of the three-revolution team movement and its great vitality.

The correctness of our party's policy which has the movement conducted powerfully lies above all in the fact that it has made it possible to closely combine the political and ideological leadership of the three revolutions with their scientific and technical guidance.

The forces guiding the movement led by our party consists of party hard-cores with high political and professional qualifications and of young intellectuals who are firmly armed with the *chuche* idea and sensitive to the trends of modern science and technique. And the three-revolution team sets it as the first task to simultaneously push forward the ideological revolution, technical revolution and cultural revolution. Therefore, the movement is a powerful revolutionary leadership method of successfully combining the political and ideological leadership of the three revolutions with their scientific and technical guidance.

The validity of the policy of the three-revolution team movement lies also in that it has become possible to steadfastly realise the party's leadership of the three revolutions and fully meet the demands of the *chongsan-ri* spirit, *chongsan-ri* method and the *taean* work system.

The movement is a mighty guiding method of satisfactorily ensuring the party's leadership of the three revolutions by the powerful guiding forces.

Today the collective guidance of the party committee has been strengthened, all matters are solved by work with people, political work, and good traits that the superiors and subordinates, those who are well informed and those who are less informed pool their efforts with each other, learning from each other and teaching each other are given full display at industrial establishments and cooperative farms, as demanded by the *chongsan-ri* spirit, *chongsan-ri* method and the *taean* work system. All this is unthinkable apart from the indestructible vitality of the three-revolution team movement.

Today a large number of three-revolution team members have grown up to be reliable vanguards of the revolution and the political forces of our revolution further strengthened. This is another precious success showing the validity of our party's policy of powerfully conducting the three-revolution team movement.

With the movement conducted powerfully, the political forces of our revolution have been further strengthened and our revolutionary ranks consolidated solidly to be invincible ranks.

Indeed, the three-revolution team movement is an efficient way of giving revolutionary guidance to persistently advance the cause of socialism and communism by powerfully stepping up the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural.

Paper Comments on Benefits of Party Ideology
SK091024 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1009 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 9 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a signed article entitled "Our Party's Ideology and Theory Are Powerful Ideological Weapon for Advance of Revolutionary Cause and Its Completion".

The article says:

Our party has put forward great ideas and theories clearly indicating the road to be followed by the time and revolution and successfully carried them through, highly demonstrating its powerful might as an ever-victorious guiding force.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and secretary, of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, said:

"To defend the leader's cause and carry it forward to completion is a question of weighty importance related to the destiny of the revolution".

It is because of our party's correct ideology and theory that the question of inheriting and accomplishing the leader's cause has been solved most successfully in our revolution.

Proceeding from the firm stand to advance our revolution solely along the road of chuche led by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, our party has put forward many precious ideas and theories guaranteeing the ultimate triumph of the revolutionary cause in the past.

The ideas and theories propounded in many works authored by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il including the works "The Workers' Party of Korea is a Chuche-type Revolutionary Party Which Inherited the Glorious Tradition of the Diu", "Let Us Advance Under the Banner of Marxism-Leninism and the Chuche Idea", and "On Some Problems of Education in the Chuche Idea" Are Run Through With the Resolve To Firmly Ensure the Completion of Our Revolution.

Our party's ideology and theory are, above all, a mighty ideological and theoretical weapon to resolutely defend the revolutionary idea of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and creditably carry forward the oneness of ideology in our revolution.

It is an unswerving stand of our party to take the idea and theory of Comrade Kim Il-song as the eternal guiding idea and theory of the party and carry our revolution forward to completion under its banner.

Our party has successfully applied and enriched not only the philosophical principle and the socio-historical principles of the chuche idea but also the revolutionary theory, strategy and tactics, theory and method of the leadership of chuche strictly maintained by Comrade Kim Il-song through the whole period of the revolution and construction.

Our party's ideology and theory are a militant banner ensuring the inheritance and completion of our revolution because they are comprehensively evolved with the program of modelling the whole of society on the chuche idea and the way of realising it as the centre.

Our party's ideology and theory are a powerful ideological compass which makes it possible to cement and develop the unity and cohesion of the revolutionary ranks achieved by Comrade Kim Il-song generation after generation and strengthen the subject of our revolution in every way.

It is a greatest exploit performed by our party for the time and revolution and the country and people that it has put forward the great ideas and theories with which our revolution will advance on the uphill trend forever along the road pioneered by Comrade Kim Il-song, stresses the article.

VNS Calls for Unlity of Opposition in South
SK090952 (Clandestine) Voice of National
Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT
5 Feb 88

[Talk by station commentator Ko Il-chol: "Let Us Thoroughly Ruminant About the Lesson of United We Stand, Divided We Fall"]

[Text] How are you, the masses of all walks of life? Having fabricated his election as president through the fraudulent and illicit 16 December presidential election under the manipulation of the United States, traitor No Tae-u has not only frantically tried to again split the democratic forces in a bid to further deepen the foundation of his power through the so-called peaceful transfer of government and the upcoming general elections, but is also brutally suppressing the masses of all walks of life who reject foreign forces and call for termination of military rule.

At the crucial and grave moment of determining whether they are to become the slaves of the fascist regime by yielding to the cunning and deceptive tricks and fascist repression of the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u clique or end the military fascist dictatorship by staging nationwide resistance for national salvation, our masses cannot but ruminant once again the historic lesson that united we stand, divided we fall.

Today's political situation urgently demands that all democratic and patriotic forces that want independence, democracy, and reunification firmly unite as one. Unity is the key to victory. The only weapon our empty-handed democratic and patriotic forces should resort to in the struggle against the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u clique is precisely unity. If and when our masses firmly unite as one and struggle, the dictators' suppression with bayonets will not work and the stronghold of the fascist dictators will be destroyed. This has been proven by history.

At a recent rally at a Seoul university, Mun Ik-hwan, chairman of the United Mass Movement for Democracy and Reunification, stressed that when our masses unanimously raise their voices against fascism and foreign forces, no one can smother those voices. He also stressed that the 19 April mass uprising in 1960, the resistance of October 1979, and the June popular resistance last year showed that if the masses are firmly united, they can subdue the dictatorial regime and its manipulators, the United States and Japan. He then stated that our masses should struggle for democracy with the united strength of the masses.

The problem of firmly uniting the democratic and patriotic forces has become urgent in light of today's reality in which the military fascist and dictatorial regime's maneuvers to split and alienate our democratic and patriotic forces have become more unscrupulous than ever before.

Maneuvers to split and alienate our democratic and patriotic forces are among of the inherent ruling methods employed by the yankee aggressors and their stooges, the fascist dictators. They have frantically and viciously perpetrated the base maneuvers of splitting, alienating, and breaking up one by one the democratic and patriotic forces. Such maneuvers have become more viciously and tenaciously perpetrated recently.

Frightened by our masses' united strength demonstrated in the June resistance last year, the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u clique stopped at nothing to split and alienate the opposition and democratic forces according to the scenario mapped out by the United States. That on the eve of the 16 December presidential election the military dictatorial group allowed random candidacy and deliberately fanned provincial sentiments among the people in a bid to reverse the unfavorable situation that had developed over the course of the election campaign was one example of this.

Therefore, at a time when unity and joint action by the democratic patriotic forces were necessary more than ever before with the presidential election approaching, the opposition democratic forces were divided by the manipulations of the United States and the military dictatorial group, resulting in the deplorable situation of traitor No Tae-u being elected president.

Truly, this greatly disappointed our masses who ardently desired to stop the military dictatorial group from coming into power again with united strength and lay a foundation for democratization. Now, with the National Assembly election approaching, the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u fascist clique is viciously scheming to divide the democratic forces into pieces and destroy them one by one, tempting the opposition camp with tactics of appeasement and deception. If the opposition camp fails to stop these divisive maneuvers, the democratic forces will be divided and demolished again as they were in the 16 December presidential election, further solidifying the No Tae-u military dictatorial system.

This will delight the Yankee aggressors and their stooge Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u fascist clique, while grave obstacles are again created along the road of our masses to democratization.

The Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u fascist clique is very glad that the divisive strategy provided by the U.S. masters has been successful, and, raving about a peaceful transfer of power, is babbling about sure victory in the forthcoming elections, as well. However, our masses will never just sit and look on the divisive maneuvers of the

military dictatorial group. All our democratic patriotic forces should counter the cunning strategy of the Yankee aggressors and the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u fascist clique of dividing and destroying with a strategy of unity, put an end to the division of the democratic forces, and crush the fascist forces' divisive maneuvers.

All who are truly concerned about the fate of the country and nation and truly wish for democratization should place utmost emphasis on this aspiration of the nation and the masses and unite themselves in one mind along the road of struggle to put this into practice. If the democratic patriotic forces are divided and demolished and fail to achieve the termination of the military rule, they will be committing unpardonable sin against the many known and unknown fallen fighters who laid down their youth and lives in the cause of national salvation for independence, democracy, and reunification; the fighters who continue resolute struggle, remaining true to their principles despite the severe hardships they must endure in fascist prisons; and the masses who struggle on the street of resistance, crying out, "Give us democracy, or give us death," as well as against history and the nation.

It is useless to regret bitterly and lament deeply after being defeated through utter disunion. All the democratic patriotic forces should awaken and enlighten themselves and unite in one mind in the cause of true democracy, civil rights, independence, and reunification. To end the U.S. colonial rule and interference and the military fascist dictatorship, the masses of all walks of life should [words indistinct].

It is quite proper that the masses of all walks of life should stress their resolve for unity, singing such songs as "The common people in urban areas who are oppressed and mistreated, let us be united, for it will give us big strength. Let us be united and struggle to defend the truth, then we will be victorious. Unity, unity! Let us be united and launch into the struggle."

All the patriotic masses of all walks of life who love justice and truth and are resolute for democracy and patriotism, let us bear in mind the historical lesson of united we stand, divided we fall, and be one along the road of independence, democracy, and reunification, so that we can eliminate the dark cloud of fascism from this land and achieve the cause of independence, democracy, and reunification at an early date.

Masses Urged To Unite

SK090129 (Clandestine) Voice of National
Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT
5 Feb 88

[Dialogue between Madame Yun Chong-won and announcer Min Hye-kyong from the "Let Us Rise in the National Salvation Struggle With United Strength" feature program: "The General Elections and the Attitude of the Masses"]

[Text] [Min Hye-kyong] How are you? With the parliamentary elections approaching, the masses from all walks of life are raising their voices that under the current fascist system, a democratic government cannot be established no matter how many times elections are held. In this hour, we would like to discuss the issue "The general elections and the attitude of the masses." I think today's political climate reminds us of the eve of the 16 December presidential election. What do you think?

[Yun Chong-won] You are right. In the wake of the general elections, the confrontation between the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u fascist dictatorial force and the forces of the patriotic masses who demand an end to the military rule is becoming acute. Trampling underfoot the unanimous desire of our people who demanded an end to the military rule and establishment of a democratic government, the current military fascist dictatorial group which fabricated traitor No Tae-u's victory in the presidential election is attempting to make the National Assembly a maid for dictatorial power by obtaining many seats in the National Assembly during the forthcoming general elections. Thus, it is resorting to every means in an attempt to extend the military fascist dictatorship.

From the beginning of the new year, the military fascist dictatorial group again split and broke up the democratic forces while appeasing and deceiving our people with the signboard of peaceful transfer of power and raving about national reconciliation and so forth. To realize favorable conditions in the forthcoming general elections, it cruelly repressed the democratic forces calling for independence, democracy, and reunification by branding them as leftist procommunist forces.

[Min] The Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u fascist clique ridiculed the people while babbling about national harmony and so forth and split and broke up the opposition forces. In addition, it randomly arrested and imprisoned the patriotic masses from all walks of life including students, youths, and democratic figures who opposed the military rule and demanded democracy.

It bestially suppressed even workers who demanded the rights to existence and democratic freedom.

[Yun] You are right. The Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u fascist clique is running amok with fascist suppression while raving that it would strictly deal with the leftist procommunist forces and those who violate the election law on the pretext of smooth transfer of government and smooth general elections.

Thus, the masses from all walks of life predicted that the forthcoming elections would be clearly a replica of the fraudulent 16 December election which was perpetrated amid corruption by money and government power. They raised voices calling for a courageous struggle to put an end to the military rule on the occasion of the general elections. I think that their demand is just and natural.

[Min] Under such circumstances, the question is how our masses should face the forthcoming general elections.

[Yun] I think that our masses should clearly realize, above all, why the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u fascist clique is attempting to hastily conduct the general elections. Needless to say, it is scheming to obtain many seats in the National Assembly by fully mobilizing money and government power before the grand united front of the democratic forces is realized, thus consolidating its military fascist dictatorship.

This being the case, the forthcoming general elections are merely another political formality designed to consolidate the foundation of the No Tae-u fascist regime.

[Min] In fact, through numerous elections including the fraudulent 15 March elections in 1960, the 17 April and the 25 May elections in 1971, and the 16 December elections last year, our masses realized that under the fascist dictatorship manipulated by the United States, fair and just elections cannot possibly be held.

Therefore, as long as the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u fascist clique, a peerless fascist tyrant and murderer who committed unprecedentedly fraudulent and corrupt elections by using money and government power and as long as the colonial system and interference of the United States which is supporting the clique continue, the elections held under the current system are simply useless.

[Yun] Thus, our masses should not expect anything from the general elections but should continuously wage the mass struggle to end the military rule and achieve the independence and cause of reunification at an early date.

[Min] Our masses are standing at an important crossroad of whether to accept the extension of the military dictatorship or to realize democratic politics and [word indistinct].

Our masses should more highly raise the anti-U.S. banner for independence which they already raised and [word indistinct].

[Yun] You are right. Our masses should know that the road of struggle is the only road to independence, democracy, and reunification. This is a precious experience which we have obtained through arduous struggle in the past. Therefore, our masses should courageously wage the struggle to permanently wipe out the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u military fascist dictatorship from this land with the forthcoming general elections as an occasion.

The Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u clique is a group of most vicious murderers who blocked the road of our masses' democratization through the December military coup and the 17 May fascist atrocity and massacred several thousands of Kwangju citizens who called for democracy and reunification.

The Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u military fascist dictatorial system is a colonial fascist system of the United States and a dictatorship of the DJP. Under such a dictatorial system, the fair elections which our masses desire cannot be held and genuine democratization cannot be expected.

[Min] Ending military rule and achieving social democratization is possible only through struggle. History shows that no military fascist dictators have resigned from power at their own will but all have attempted to remain in power and sustain their filthy lives by all means. Therefore, our masses should wage the courageous struggle to overthrow the military fascist forces.

Ending military rule and achieving the democratization that our masses so ardently desire is possible only through the struggle to overthrow the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u clique. Thus, our masses shout "Let us put an end to the U.S. colonial rule which supports and manipulates the current military dictatorial group!"

[Yun] The genuine road of democratization lies on the road of upholding the anti-U.S. banner for independence which we already raised. The yankee aggressors are attempting to seize this land as their permanent colony by supporting such unprecedented fascist tyrant and murderer as the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u fascist clique and blocking our masses' advance to democracy.

It is none other than the United States that issued an order to repress with iron fists the Kwangju citizens who called for democracy and reunification and made Kwangju immerse in a sea of blood. It is a fact widely known to the world that the our people's spirit for struggle was appeased by the 29 June declaration and No Tae-u's victory in the 16 December fraudulent election was fabricated according to the script of the United States.

With the approach of the general elections, the United States dispatched political strategists to this land under an official or unofficial capacity. It is now waging various maneuvers to instigate the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u clique to split and break up its rival forces so that they cannot attain unity.

[Min] Our masses should correctly realize that as long as the U.S. colonial rule is implemented in this land, any demand for democratization will not be achieved. The yankee aggressors are indeed the cancerous existence viciously blocking the road of independence, democracy, and reunification of our people. Thus, our masses should wage the courageous struggle to end the colonial domination and interference of the United States under the anti-U.S. banner for independence.

[Yun] I would like to add that our masses, if they truly wish to seek independence, democracy, and reunification, should unite themselves under the anti-U.S. banner for independence. If our masses are firmly united as one,

no one can suppress them even with guns and bayonets. The reason why the direct election system which our people gained through the June resistance struggle failed to bring about fruition is that the democratic forces failed to unite.

[Min] Our masses should not expect anything from the forthcoming general elections but should wage a courageous anti-U.S. and antifascist national salvation resistance struggle. They should unite themselves to win victory in this struggle. In conclusion, our masses should wage a nationwide anti-U.S. and antifascist national salvation struggle on the occasion of the general elections.

South Korea

No Meeting With Next U.S. President Sought
SK100222 Seoul YONHAP in English
0212 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP)—South Korea is seeking to arrange a summit meeting in the first half of next year between No Tae-u and the next president of the United States.

The move reverses Korea's earlier plan to realize a summitry between No and incumbent U.S. President Ronald Reagan before the end of this year because the two had already met during No's visit to the United States in 1987, an informed Foreign Ministry source said Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su, in his recent policy briefing for the president-elect, had said that his ministry would work to bring about a meeting between No and Reagan. No is to be inaugurated on Feb. 25.

The sources said the ministry has decided to make diplomatic efforts to realize a meeting between No and the new U.S. president sometime after the new U.S. chief executive takes office in January next year.

In light of the domestic political schedules in both countries, it will be difficult in reality to hold a summit meeting within this year, said a senior Foreign Ministry official.

South Korea is scheduled to conduct parliamentary elections and the first provincial elections in recent time and also host the summer Olympic games, while the U.S. political timetable includes the presidential election in November.

We think it is more desirable for Mr. No to meet with a new U.S. president for the realignment of the bilateral relations between the two countries, the Foreign Ministry official said.

Japan's Nakasone Begins 3-Day Visit

Arrives in Seoul 10 February
SK100829 Seoul YONHAP in English
819 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP)—Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone arrived in Seoul Wednesday afternoon for a three-day visit at the invitation of South Korean President Chon Tu-hwan.

It is Nakasone's sixth visit to South Korea, including two official trips during his five years as prime minister. The former Japanese prime minister, who stepped down last October as head of the governing Liberal Democratic Party, also attended the opening ceremony of the 10th Asian Games in Seoul on Sept. 20, 1986.

During his stay here, Nakasone is scheduled to meet with Chon and President-elect No Tae-u, who will be sworn in as South Korea's 13th president on Feb. 25.

Nakasone will also attend a seminar sponsored by the Ilhae Institute under the theme of international affairs and Japan's choices.

Meets With Chon Tu-hwan
SK101225 Seoul YONHAP in English
1217 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP)—South Korean President Chon Tu-hwan met Wednesday with former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone for talks on issues of mutual concern, presidential spokesman Choe Chae-uk said.

In the meeting, Nakasone expressed the idea that Chon, U.S. President Ronald Reagan and himself get together to converse concerning various world issues after Reagan's retirement of office.

Chon welcomed Nakasone's idea, saying that if the dialogue is expanded with participation of peacefully retired leaders in other regions, it would contribute greatly to world peace and welfare of mankind, Choe said.

Nakasone arrived here Wednesday afternoon for a three-day visit at Chon's invitation.

During his stay here, Nakasone will meet with President-elect No Tae-u and attend a seminar sponsored by the Ilhae Institute, a private, non-profit research organization in Seoul.

Second Nation Breaks Ties With North

Fiji Breaks Relations
SK100133 Seoul YONHAP in English
0121 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP)—Fiji has become the second country to sever its diplomatic relations with North Korea in a move to condemn Pyongyang's terrorist bombing last November of a South Korean passenger aircraft in which 115 people were killed, the South Korean Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry said Fiji's decision, which followed a similar move by St. Vincent and the Grenadines, was expressed in a congratulatory message forwarded to President-elect No Tae-u, who is scheduled to be sworn in as South Korea's 13th president later this month.

Fiji established diplomatic ties with Pyongyang in 1975, four years after it opened formal ties with Seoul.

The South Korean Government announced on Jan. 15 that a woman suspect had confessed that she was a North Korean agent and had planted a time bomb aboard Korean Air (KAL) Flight 858 which disappeared over the Andaman Sea near Burma last Nov. 29. Flight 858 originated in Baghdad, Iraq, made one stop in Abu Dhabi and vanished before a scheduled refueling stop in Bangkok en route to Seoul.

Since the announcement, the United States, Japan and Britain have joined 56 other nations in officially condemning North Korea's terrorist bombing and announcing diplomatic sanctions against Pyongyang.

Government Welcomes Announcement
SK100245 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
10 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] The government yesterday welcomed Fiji's severance of diplomatic ties with North Korea as a "courageous move" against international terrorism.

"We firmly believe it will help deter any further terrorist acts by North Korea, and contribute to ensuring safety of international civil aviation," Foreign Ministry spokesman Kim Hang-kyong said.

The South Pacific nation is the second country that has cut diplomatic relations with North Korea in reaction to last November's destruction of a KAL airliner. St. Vincent-Grenadines broke its ties with Pyongyang late last month.

Liberia last week suspended all contacts with the North, a step considered to have the same effect as the severance of diplomatic ties.

Fifty-nine countries have so far taken punitive steps or issued statements censuring North Korea for its bombing of the KAL plane, the ministry said.

RDP Resolves To Seek 'Any' Form of Merger
SK100124 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] The Reunification Democratic Party resolved in a meeting of its Executive Council and caucus yesterday to seek any form of opposition integration possible including a party-to-party merger with its rival Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD].

Kim Tae-chung's PPD has insisted on a three-way opposition integration that includes dissident forces on an equal footing.

It also maintains that the RDP should agree to the small parliamentary district system adopted by the PPD prior to opposition integration. The RDP has been proposing medium-size constituencies electing two to four lawmakers each.

The RDP officials suggested that the rival parties may discuss parliamentary district formula after realizing opposition integration.

If the rival parties succeeded in opposition unification to be joined by other dissident forces, our party may consider adopting the small district system, according to a senior RDP member.

Rep. Pak Kwan-yong argued in response to the PPD call for the adoption of the small districts, "The projected opposition integration has nothing to do with the parliamentary election formula. The opposition integration should come first and then discuss other matters."

RDP spokesman Kim Tae-yong told reporters after the Executive Council meeting, "Our party will take a flexible stance in the projected negotiations with other opposition groups for the integration."

The RDP will set up a special body composed of senior members to be empowered to take charge of the negotiations.

Acting party president Kim Myong-yun was entrusted in the council meeting to select the negotiators.

Those members may include Secretary General Pak Chong-yol, floor leader Kim Hyon-kyu, former vice party presidents Choe Hyong-u and Pak Yong-man.

The RDP held a party caucus in the Assembly to discuss how to realize opposition integration, for which its president Kim Yong-sam resigned from the party leadership Monday.

It adopted a resolution declaring its determination "to realize the opposition unification without fail for opposition victory in the forthcoming general elections."

They asserted the necessity for an "unconditional" merger with the PPD, but failed to work out any specific principle for that purpose.

Kim Tae-chung Seeks Three-Party Opposition
SK100151 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Kim Tae-chung, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], said yesterday that he would withdraw from active opposition leadership "after realizing an opposition integration."

He said he would seek the union of the PPD, the Reunification Democratic Party and the dissident forces for an opposition victory in the parliamentary election.

He made it clear that he will remain in control of the PPD until the general elections if the three-party opposition integration is not realized. The statements constitute virtual rejection of calls from some opposition circles for his departure from the party leadership in the same manner as Kim Yong-sam.

Kim opposed merger of the PPD and the RDP on a party-to-party basis and indicated that the RDP must scrap its medium-size electoral constituency system and adopt the one-lawmaker small constituency system favored by the PPD before an opposition integration.

Kim laid out the two preconditions—a three-way merger and the small constituency system—in an Executive Council meeting yesterday and named six representatives in charge of negotiation with the rival RDP and the various dissident forces.

The six members are three dissident recruits, Mun Tong-hwan, Pak Yong-suk and Yi Sang-su and three existing PPD members, Yi Chung-chae, Choe Young-kun and Cho Se-hyong.

Kim said yesterday that the opposition integration must be realized.

What is important now, however, is that the integration should be made with the participation of the three groups—the PPD, the RDP and the various dissident groups, the PPD president added.

Without the RDP agreeing to the adoption of the one-lawmaker small constituency system, the opposition reunification is meaningless, he continued.

"As I had stated earlier, I am willing to take a back seat if the three-party grand reunion is realized."

Kim postponed a Central Standing Committee meeting, which was scheduled for next week, to adopt the collective leadership and to authorize the new dissident entrants 50 percent control of the party.

The postponement is designed to inject fresh vigor into the on-going move toward opposition integration, he said.

But, he added that the Central Standing Committee meeting will be held sometime this month if there is little progress on the reunion of the opposition involving the PPD, the RDP and the dissident forces.

To focus energy on promoting the integration of the divided opposition, Kim said the PPD will also postpone the scheduled massive public rally to call for the adoption of the one-lawmaker small constituency system until after next week.

In yesterday's Executive Council meeting, loyalists to Kim Tae-chung pointed out what they believed was the "real intention" behind Kim Yong-sam's resignation from the RDP presidency Tuesday.

Cho Se-hyong, editor of the PPD organ, said, "The resignation of Kim Yong-sam from the RDP leadership is a scheme to make a ripple effect on the PPD and president Kim Tae-chung, thus reducing the influence of the PPD and president Kim."

Assembly To Open Special Session 10 February
SK091252 Seoul YONHAP in English
1242 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 9 (YONHAP)—South Korea's National Assembly will open a week-long special session Wednesday to deliberate a revision to the parliamentary election law and other economic bills.

The ruling and opposition parties Tuesday agreed to the sitting of the extraordinary session featuring plenary sessions on Feb. 10 and Feb. 15-16 and operations of the standing committees on Feb. 11-13.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) and the leading opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) agreed to complete negotiations on the proposed parliamentary election law revision during the 139th special session.

But little progress was made in talks Tuesday between the DJP and other minor opposition parties which only reaffirmed the principle to settle negotiations on election law amendments at an early date.

The ruling and opposition parties have shown disagreements mainly over the size of electoral districts.

The DJP has suggested that each district have one to three representatives, while the RDP favors a constituency system in which two to four lawmakers are elected in proportion to the size of population of each district.

But the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) has asserted that only one lawmaker be elected from each constituency.

DRC Debate Intensifies as Second Session Opens
SK100159 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Feb 88 p 2

[By staff reporter Pyon Chang-sop]

[Text] The debate of the Democratization and Reconciliation Council [DRC] is becoming more intense as the DRC, wrapping up its first stint of subpanel activities last week, slid into another seven-day session on wide-ranging democratic reforms.

Since its creation on Jan. 11, the 56-member provisional body, charged with working out a package of recommendations to president-elect No Tae-u, has been hard at work divided into three subpanels on democracy, reconciliation and social reform.

When the list of the DRC members was announced on Jan. 11, it cut little ice with the people who had expected some "new" faces for the civic commission.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party officials, had done their best to recruit "fresh" faces into the DRC. Yet, their efforts proved futile when many elders and celebrities avoided being included in the DRC for fear of the possible "suspicious eyes" of the public.

Amid this "icy" attention of the people, the DRC members have been waging a brisk discussion on various, including those considered "taboo" until recently, as if to kill the popular image of its being a "puppet" for the government and the DJP.

No and DJP officials, for their part, declared that they will stay clear of the activities of the DRC, going one step further to announce their position that they will accept recommendations of the DRC "sincerely and positively"

During its first round of subpanel discussions, the DRC broke the initial suspicion of the people as it opened up issues of national importance.

The DRC discussion centered on matters which DJP officials and even No have wanted to keep the lid on. They included the causes of the tragic Kwangju incident in 1980, economic scandals in the Chon Tu-hwan administration and irregularities at the Saemaul Movement Headquarters, once run by Chon's brother Chon Kyong-hwan.

Among the tasks facing the DRC, the healing of the Kwangju tragedy was given the top priority, because the issue had been the heaviest political burden to Chon and other people involved.

The harrowing recounts by the people standing for testimony at the subpanel on national reconciliation was a sharp pointer to a simple truth that unless the Gordian knot of the Kwangju incident is cut, reconciliation will not come.

The testifying individuals including those who were wounded in the uprising demanded that the committee form a special fact-finding body to fully unveil the truth of the Kwangju tragedy.

Some further demanded that those "responsible for the killing of so many Kwangju citizens" be punished and the dignity of Kwangju citizens who were labelled as "rioters" be restored before the government compensates the wounded and the families of those killed.

Still, members of the DRC expressed conflicting views on the Kwangju matter: some opted for a thorough fact-finding and restoration of the honor of Kwangju citizens while others stopped short of it, saying "just digging into the matter" will only worsen the situation.

Although the issue of the formation of a fact-finding body has to be finalized, chances are slim to see it given the time limit of the DRC activities which end before Feb. 25 and the function of the DRC itself which is only designed to make recommendations to the new president.

What's certain for now is that unless the debate on the Kwangju matter is closed at the DRC, it will continue to be a proverbial political albatross round No's neck during his five-year tenure.

Given that different people have different views, there were some interesting scenes among the DRC members on their approach to problems.

Kim In-sil, head of Kyonggi High School, drew a noisy laughter when he said, "the regional antagonism will melt away when more people from Kwangju and Taegu get married."

Yun Chong-pyo, a business man, proposed that a second Seoul National University be founded somewhere in the border between Kyongsang and Cholla provinces so that the students from the competing regions "will mingle naturally and become friends."

Yi Yong-tae, president of the Korea Data Communications Corp., said he felt the recommendations lack "a futurist approach," fearing that they will fail to meet the expectations of the times.

Although the DRC sessions were marked by conflicting views in many cases, such "dissonance" proved one thing: The DRC is not controlled by any outside influence, and thus the members feel free to say whatever they want.

In other subpanel activities, the members discussed various political and social reform measures, presenting some drastic recommendations in the DRC interim report.

Among the recommendations were the new president's declaration of human rights guarantee, the establishment of a West-Coast Development Agency and the government's respect for the opinions of judges and lawyers in submitting judiciary bills.

Some members described the initial recommendations as "too idealistic," but one member put it at its full meeting on Feb. 5, "If we find the level of our liberty below average, then the democratic reform we put forward has to raise it to the desired level. Therefore, our demand is not too big nor too ideal."

Maybe the recommendation package, coming on Feb. 23, will put No to the credibility test along with that of his new government from the onset of his inauguration as new president on Feb. 25.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Says 'Many Options' Available
OW101019 Tokyo KYODO in English 0936 GMT
10 Feb 88

[By Kamathcy Sappani]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb. 10 KYODO—Malaysians are closely watching what action Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed will take to overcome a political crisis created by a surprise court decision which declared his powerful political party unlawful.

At a press conference last Friday, a day after the court ruling, Mahathir told reporters he is still prime minister and has "many options" in dealing with the situation. He did not elaborate, however, on what his options were.

He said the situation is not a crisis but "a technical matter...that could be resolved in time."

It was not Mahathir but the country's first Prime Minister Abdul Rahman, who took the initiative. The 85-year-old elder statesman announced Monday that he will launch a new party, the United Malays National Organization (UMNO) Malaysia.

Like all three previous Malaysian prime ministers, Mahathir was president of UMNO which is now an illegal organization under the Societies Act because 30 of its chapters have not been officially registered.

Six days after the ruling, it is still unclear what Mahathir intends to do next.

Initial uncertainties and the opposition's call for Mahathir's resignation as prime minister may cause a move for a vote of confidence at the coming session of the Malaysian Parliament in March.

The National Front Coalition has 148 seats in Parliament, of which 83 are held by UMNO. The opposition has 29.

Rahman's announcement that he is forming UMNO Malaysia has added a new twist to the matter—a twist that could turn out to be very much in Mahathir's favor, sources said.

Although supported by Mahathir's predecessor Hussein Onn, Rahman's initiative to "resurrect" UMNO is being criticized as unwise by former UMNO leaders opposed to Mahathir.

Former Defense Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who resigned from Mahathir's cabinet last year because of policy differences, said the move could have "grave consequences" for the party and lead to a permanent split among the Malays, the largest ethnic group in this multiracial country.

Malay disunity could also lead to greater political instability, says Chandra Muzaffar, president of Aliran, a prominent public interest group.

Mahathir must therefore contend with accusations that the 42-year-old party, which has been the backbone of the coalition government since national independence in 1957, has died under his leadership, according to analysts.

Such an accusation has already been leveled at him by Rahman, who as prime minister expelled Mahathir from the party in 1969 after Mahathir openly called Rahman's rule autocratic.

Mahathir was readmitted to the party in 1972 after Rahman retired.

Yet some analysts warn the danger of Malay disunity could prompt must UMNO members of Parliament, even those critical of Mahathir, to support him in parliament.

This could ultimately make Mahathir stronger than ever before, they say.

In the April 24, 1987, party presidential election, Mahathir narrowly defeated then Trade and Industry Minister Razaleigh Hamzah in a 761-718 vote.

Eleven UMNO members aligned with Razaleigh then went to court in an attempt to nullify the elections, saying unregistered delegates had voted.

The Kuala Lumpur high court, after finding UMNO's 30 local chapters were not officially registered, ruled the entire organization unlawful.

While people loyal to Mahathir and Razaleigh are busy blaming one another for UMNO's collapse, Malaysians are not yet sure what Mahathir intends to do to resolve the political crisis.

Briefs

Broadcast Signal Enhancement

The Voice of Malaysia will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Monday. The service, which broadcasts in English, Indonesian, Mandarin, Thai, Arabic, Tagalog, Malay, and Burmese, can be received around half the world. Plans are being made to introduce the Japanese and Vietnamese programs in the near future. The Voice of Malaysia hopes to enhance its signals to be heard all

around the world. This is especially important for Europe and North America where a great number of Malaysian students study. [Summary] *[Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 10 Feb 88 BK]*

Cambodia

Thai 'Violations' of Territory in January
BK091321 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1108 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 9—In January this year, Thai war planes of the L-19, F-5, F-19 and F-111 types made 55 intrusions into Kampuchean airspace over the Kampuchea-Thailand-Laos border intersection, O Smach, Anlung Veng, Malai, Ta Sanh, and the end of Road 56.

On land, Thai gunners fired from 1,000 to 9,500 artillery and mortar rounds a day on various areas in Preah Vihear, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Battambang, Pursat and Banteay Meanchey Provinces.

Thai armed vessels also made 114 incursions into Kampuchean territorial waters from 8 to 10 miles off Kaoh Pring, Kaoh Tang, and Poulo Wai Islands.

Always vigilant and combat-ready, Kampuchean border guards in coordination with Vietnamese army volunteers promptly intercepted groups of reactionary Khmers who were sneaking into Kampuchean territory for sabotage activities, putting out of action 747 intruders, including 488 killed, 124 captured, 135 forced to lay down their arms, and seizing 206 assorted guns and a quantity of ammunition and war means.

Meeting Condemns Thai Attacks on Laos
BK091313 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1125 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 9—A 250-strong meeting was organized in Phnom Penh Monday afternoon jointly by the National Council of the United Front for the Construction and Defence of Kampuchean Fatherland and the Kampuchea-Laos Friendship Association, to condemn the Thai authorities' provocative acts against the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Addressing the meeting, Mat Ly, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, vice chairman of the National Assembly, president of the Kampuchean Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Peoples and president of the Kampuchean Federation of Trade Unions, said: "The Kampuchean people have followed with keen interest the grave situation caused by the Thai ultrarightist ruling circles who are hatching the ambition of pan-Thaism against the earnest desire of peoples of Laos and Thailand for peace and good neighbourliness.

He expressed the PRK Government's unreserved support for the just and firm struggle of the fraternal Lao people for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and highly acclaimed the LPDR's good-will proposal for a peaceful solution to the conflict so as to restore friendly ties between Laos and Thailand.

Mat Ly reiterated the Kampuchean people's militant solidarity with the fraternal Lao people. He stated that as before, Kampuchea will always stand on the side of the Lao people in their resolute struggle against the enemy. He called upon the public opinion and the peace-loving people the world over to support the just struggle of the Lao people and take drastic measures to force the Thai authorities to give up their ill-intentioned schemes against the Lao People's Democratic Republic and embark on negotiations with Laos in quest of a peaceful solution to the border conflict.

Next speaker was Nilhak Siyarat, charge d'affaires a.i. to the Lao Embassy in Kampuchea, who briefed the audience on Thailand's land-grabbing attacks on Lao territory. He strongly condemned the Thai invasions and demanded that the Thai Government respect the joint Lao-Thai agreement signed in 1979.

The meeting adopted a resolution urging the Thai ultrarightist ruling circles to put an immediate end to their aggression against Laos, pull out all their forces from Lao territory, and positively respond to the LPDR's good-will proposal for peacefully settling the disputes on the principles of equality and without preconditions.

Present at the meeting were, among others, Yos Son, member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of its Commission for External Relations; Sam Sundoeun, member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and first secretary of the People's Revolutionary Youth Union of Kampuchea; and Superior Bonze Tep Vong, vice chairman of the National Assembly.

Members of the diplomatic corps in Phnom Penh attended.

Sihanouk-Khieu Samphan Talks in Beijing
BK100204 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] On 7, 8, and 9 February, at the royal residence in Beijing, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and Neak Mneang Monique held talks with His Excellency Khieu Samphan, DK vice president, and other members of the DK delegation from Cambodia who came to visit the samdech with warm feelings.

The talks between the samdech and His Excellency Khieu Samphan proceeded in a cordial and warm atmosphere. During the talks, the samdech and His Excellency Khieu Samphan praised the good military cooperation on the battlefield between the samdech's armed forces and those of Democratic Kampuchea in the common struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors' forces and praised the firmness of the cooperation among various patriotic Cambodian forces, which have been fighting courageously, valiantly, and resolutely against the Vietnamese aggressors until they agree to resolve the Cambodian problem politically by pulling out all their aggressor forces from Cambodia.

On behalf of the DK delegation, His Excellency Khieu Samphan thanked the samdech and neak mneang for receiving the delegation cordially and in a friendly manner as coparticipants in the struggle.

On 9 February, the delegation took leave of the samdech and returned home.

SRV Tank Ambushed in Battambang; 5 Killed
BK100224 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 9 Feb 88

[From the "Daily Report From Various Battlefields" feature]

[Excerpt] North Sisophon battlefield: On 6 February, we ambushed a Vietnamese enemy tank leaving Samraong for Ponley Sar in Ampil District. It was ambushed by our forces which destroyed it on the spot. Five of those inside the tank were killed and another seven wounded. We destroyed an 85-mm gun, a 12.7-mm gun, three B-40's, five AK's, and some war materiel. [passage omitted]

Briefs

More Returnees in Kampot

Phnom Penh SPK February 9—Last year, 137 people misguided by the enemy propaganda broke with the enemy rank and reported themselves to the revolutionary authorities in Kampot Province, 150 km southwest of Phnom Penh. The returnees, mostly ex-Pol Potists, brought along with them 19 assorted guns and a quantity of war materials. The biggest number of ralliers was reported in Chum Kiri District which received 53 strays with many guns in hands. In the 1984-87 period, Kampot Province received 597 misled people with 108 assorted guns. All of the returnees have been given full right of citizenship and necessities to embark on a new life with their families. [Text] *[Phnom Penh SPK in English 1116 GMT 9 Feb 88 BK]*

Indonesia

Suharto Replaces Army Chief Murdani
HK100706 Hong Kong AFP in English 0606 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 10 (AFP)—President Suharto in a surprise move Wednesday appointed Army chief General Try Sutriseno as commander in chief of Indonesia's Armed Forces, replacing General Benny Murdani.

Gen. Murdani told newsmen after meeting Mr. Suharto the president would swear in Gen. Try, 52, on March 7.

Gen. Try is currently on a working visit to Vietnam, and was due back in Jakarta later Wednesday.

Current deputy army chief Lieutenant General Edi Sudrajat will be sworn in to replace Gen. Try as Army chief on February 20, Gen. Murdani said.

Gen. Murdani declined to comment further on the abrupt change, and said "it will depend on the new president" when asked what position he might now take.

Indonesia is to elect a new president on March 11.

Gen. Try has been mentioned as a possible presidential candidate in the 1990's.

Briefs

Ghanaian Ambassador Presents Credentials

New Ghanaian Ambassador James Leslie Mayne Tamisah presented credentials to President Suharto at Merdeka Palace in Jakarta on 27 Jan. [Summary] *[Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 28 Jan 88 p 11 BK]*

Laos

Thai Troops 'Indiscriminately' Shell Boten
BK100214 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] According to a report from Boten District, from 0700 to 1500 on 9 February, the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops indiscriminately fired over 200 rounds of various artillery shells at positions of our regional armed forces in Na Banoi canton of Boten District, Sayaboury Province. At 1100 on the same day, one of their F-5 warplanes flew several sorties over the area as far as 30 km inside Lao territory while they were making preparations for new attacks on our armed forces' positions.

Commentary Criticizes Thailand's Sitthi
BK101130 Vientiane KPL in English
0859 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Vientiane, February 10 (OANA-KPL)—Through its commentary today, PASASON disproves the points made on the evening of February 8 by Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila saying that they were nothing more than deceitful lies aiming at convincing not only Thai but world public.

PASASON comments that starting from the premise that the western part of Boten District, Lao Sayaboury Province, belongs to Thailand, the head of Thai diplomats concocted five points which had no single truth in any of them.

In the statement made through Thai media, Sitthi Sawetsila groundlessly and with no qualms pointed the finger at the Lao saying that the Lao side is the culprit wanting to illegally annex the disputed area rightfully belonging to the Thai people.

What lies Sitthi fabricated when he lied to the Thai and the world included, accusing the Lao side that "it has resorted to the use of force, not willing to negotiate and not responding to Thailand's peaceful attitude..."

The famous and laughable statement made on the night was that: "the Thai side has done its utmost to solve the (frontier) issue from the very start in accordance with the UN Charter and international laws," the paper adds, warning at the same time for foreigners who lack the knowledge of the history and have not closely followed the border conflict may be easily deceived by such shameless lies.

In this juncture, PASASON's commentator says, after all there are no political and army figures who fall for such oratory of the Thai diplomatic chief. But that is only the question which concerns Thailand.

However, the paper reminds its readers, Sitthi Sawetsila did not perform so well in the case of the 1984 Thai aggression against the three hamlets of Laos in Sayaboury Province. Then, at the UN forum, Sitthi Sawetsila was shamefully forced to pull out his aggressive troops from the Lao territory. The commentator hopes in this connection that the 1984 incident has not totally been erased from the memories of the Thai and world people alike, and the truth will soon be revealed once more that Sitthi Sawetsila is at large and doing his tricks again.

PASASON points out the harm done to the ordinary Thai people, especially to the soldiers who are being used as cannon fodder only to serve the personal interests of a handful of Thai leaders and to the detriment of the long standing Lao-Thai relations of good neighbourliness. In

this connection, the paper adds, there are some signs, especially among Thai students and intelligentsia that refuted the claim made by Thai leaders that Laos is aggressing Thailand.

Laos is a small country which has just been liberated. It has done nothing more than channelling all efforts to rebuild its economy. Another point is that never in its history has Laos aggressed Thailand. Only the reverse was true.

As far as the Thai allegation that Laos is not willing to settle the conflict by peaceful means, the paper ridicules Sitthi Sawetsila saying that the man seems to only say the opposite to the truth.

Every time there was Lao-Thai border conflict, it was always the Lao side that first proposed that the problem be solved by peaceful means and such is the case regarding the current conflict.

In this connection, the paper argues that with such objective in mind, the Lao Foreign Ministry, on August 18, 1987, handed over an aide-memoire to the Thai side requesting that talks be urgently started. Just to show that the Thai side was not willing it took four months for the Thai to answer it. On December 25, 1987, the Thai side agreed "in principle" to hold talks but laid down some preconditions, one of which the Lao side could not possibly accept, that the Lao Army be first pulled out of the area.

On December 28, 1987, the paper continues, the Lao side proposed to have urgent talks free from all preconditions and the talks might be held in Bangkok or Vientiane. To this proposal the Thai side used the same justifications and arrogant tone, counter-proposing on January 4, 1988, that the meeting be held in Udon, equating this northeastern Thai town with the capital of the Lao PDR.

Once again, reaffirming the stand of Laos in favour for peaceful solution, the paper says, on January 25, 1988, the Lao Government issued a statement saying that its delegation headed by Lao foreign minister was ready to negotiate with the Thai side in Bangkok or Vientiane. To this proposal, first, the Thai charge d'affaires informed the Lao side, on January 28, 1988, that Sitthi Sawetsila was willing to welcome his Lao counterpart in Bangkok. But then, on the following day, January 29, 1988, the Thai Foreign Ministry ordered its embassy in Vientiane to inform the Lao side that: "Mr Phoun Sipaseut (Lao foreign minister) was not invited to negotiate on the bilateral issues, he was only invited as an acquaintance." It was added by the Thai side that [there can be] no talks unless Lao troops are pulled out (from the disputed area).

All these cases, the paper points out, should serve as indication that Sitthi Sawetsila is a liar and he is not an ordinary person but the head of a nation's Foreign Ministry. He is shown to be irresponsible and pays little heed to the people's lives, which have senselessly been lost at the battle front.

The paper concludes by giving words of warning that, this time again, Sitthi Sawetsila will fail to hide the truth. Referring to the incident in 1984, the paper says the same trick did not work last time, and will not work now. Better he stop his tricks and turn to the negotiating table—a chance to save the time-honoured relations between the two people, who after all, share the same blood.

Philippines

NPA Targets Diplomats for Assassination *HK100845 Hong Kong AFP in English 0837 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] Manila, Feb 10 (AFP)—Communist guerrillas said Wednesday they have targetted for assassination certain U.S., British, and Israeli diplomats for allegedly backing the government's anti-insurgency campaign.

The warning came as President Corazon Aquino rejected a fresh call from the communists for her government to share power with them.

"We will immediately launch operations specifically targetting foreign nationals directly and actively participating in the military's anti-rebel campaign," a spokesman of the communist New People's Army (NPA) told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The spokesman, a member of the NPA's Manila-based Alex Boncayao Brigade who identified himself as "Sonny," singled out U.S., Israeli, and British Embassy personnel, but declined to identify them by name.

"They are here mainly to protect their interests," he said.

Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, Manila police chief Brigadier General Alfredo Lim, police Major Romeo Maganto, and other members of Mrs. Aquino's cabinet have also been targetted for assassination, the spokesman said.

The 25,000-strong NPA has yet to launch an attack against foreign nationals in the capital. In October the NPA shot dead three Americans, including two servicemen, outside the U.S. Clark Air Base north of here. Washington is Manila's main arms supplier.

Last month, security was tightened at embassies here following an unclaimed attack on the French Ambassador to Manila Jacques le Blanc. He escaped unhurt.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Aquino Wednesday rejected any coalition with the communists.

"They should run in the election, and if the people elect them, then that's the time they have power," she told reporters two days after a rebel broadcast in which communist spokesmen said she should share power with them.

The communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) alliance first proposed a coalition government during peace talks with the government last year.

Mrs. Aquino rejected the proposal and ordered an all-out campaign against the communists after a ceasefire ended on February 8, 1987. Monday's broadcast was made on the anniversary of the end of the ceasefire.

The NPA Manila spokesman said Wednesday that the communists did not fear direct U.S. military intervention as a result of their planned attacks.

"It is politically costly for Americans to intensify direct intervention in the country. That will be the start of the defeat of their war," he said.

Another NPA guerilla, who called himself Marty, said "all personalities, in and out of the government, directly or indirectly involved in the counter-insurgency operations, are potential targets."

His comrade clarified that not all cabinet members were targets, saying: "There are still progressive elements within the Aquino cabinet."

The rebel spokesmen minimized the effects of the arrests last week of two leaders of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines and 18 other rebels in raids on suspected NPA safehouses and medical centers.

"The Alex Boncayao Brigade is a flexible organization. We are still intact. We will be launching operations soon," said one of spokesmen.

Military Discovers List

*HK101159 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1000 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] The authorities today revealed a CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA plan to assassinate military officials, local officials, and known foreign personalities in the country.

AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] spokesman Colonel Oscar Florendo said that the plan was discovered after several computer discs and subversive documents were decoded. He said discs were seized by the military when it arrested 20 communist leaders last week.

Florendo announced that topping the list intended for liquidation were AFP chief of staff Renato de Villa and Brigadier General Honesto Isleta. Florendo also stated that among those arrested last week were several NPA hitmen, including Ka [Comrade] Nido, believed to be Noli Narca. Narca was responsible for the murder of Mayor Federico Cua of Javier, Leyte.

Aquino Rejects Communist Power-Sharing Offer
*BK100759 Manila PNA in English 0747 GMT
10 Feb 88*

[Text] Manila, Feb. 10 (PNA-OANA)—The two-year-old Aquino government Wednesday thumbed down the renewed call of the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) for a power-sharing arrangement.

"Imagine that," reacted Catalino Macaraig, Philippine President Corazon Aquino's executive secretary, to the NDF proposal clandestinely broadcast by the rebels Tuesday.

The broadcast was the third time the guerillas penetrated the commercial airways on the frequency modulation band. The previous broadcasts were made Dec. 26 and Jan. 30.

Military communications experts believed the broadcast was beamed by a ship sailing in the southern part of the Philippines.

The rebels said "power-sharing" was meant to prevent a civil war from breaking out in the Philippines and urged Aquino to agree to a "collective leadership" with the communists.

Government officials described the communist proposal as "absurd and stupid" and called on the dissidents to submit themselves to an electoral exercise.

There is no way a coalition government can be established with the communists who recently suffered a series of setbacks following the arrest by the military of 20 ranking leaders of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines, they said.

Aquino has said that under no circumstances would she yield to the power-sharing scheme of the communists who have no political mandate from the people.

She has ordered instead the military to intensify its punitive operations against the rebels who number some 25,000 scattered in 63 of the country's 75 provinces.

Proposal Advanced Previously

*HK100519 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0500 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has again rejected the communist rebels' proposal for a coalition government. The president said that those who want to participate in government should run for election, and only when they are elected by the people will they have power.

The proposal for a coalition government was first advanced by the NDF during its negotiations with the government to end the war between government and rebel troops. However, the talks collapsed.

Rebel Broadcast Possibly Aired From Ship
*HK101041 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 10 Feb 88 p 3*

[Text] The communist National Democratic Front's clandestine broadcast "Radyo Sierra Madre" may have been aired from a ship, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) said yesterday.

NTC broadcast division chief Sylvia Marcelo said there were strong indications that the communist rebels broadcast their radio program from a ship anchored somewhere. Marcelo added, however, that this was only a theory and that the NTC was still collating data, including information from the military, to support its belief.

Earlier, the military also said the communists may have aired the radio program from a ship because the source of the broadcast moved from one place to another.

Danny Sy, officer-in-charge of the NTC branch in Cebu City, bolstered the theory at the NTC regional directors meeting Quezon City last Monday, making observations on the mobility of the source of the rebels' radio broadcast.

"Radyo Sierra Madre" had gone on the air three times since December, the first two times in Manila and the third in Cebu City.

Probe of Leftist Radio Station Use Ordered
*HK101021 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] Any radio stations that allow leftist organizations to use their facilities to go on the air will be subject to investigation. This was announced by Luis Alcuaz of the National Telecommunications Commission in reaction to reports that a radio station in Dipolog City broadcast a 4-hour appeal by representatives of the NDF. The NDF called for power-sharing or a coalition between the government and the NDF.

[Begin Alcuaz recording] This has to be investigated. Some people have complained that we are not strict with the Left. The question is: Is it the Left with regard to

issues, ideas, or platforms, or is it the Left that advocates armed struggle. It is a good thing that you brought up the case. I am going to look into this to find out if any laws were violated. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Discussion of U.S. Bases Pact Continues

Ordenez Does Not Foresee Removal
HK101043 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 10 Feb 88 p 6

[By staff writer Fely Gob]

[Text] Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordenez, acting chairman of the U.S. bases review preparatory committee, said yesterday he does not foresee the possibility of the committee's proposing the immediate abrogation of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. military bases agreement.

Ordenez, who is acting committee chairman in the absence of Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus, who is indisposed, also disclosed that each committee member has been assigned to make special studies on the nuances of the bases issue.

He said results of these studies will serve as bases for the official position the Philippines will present to the U.S. panel in the forthcoming review sometime in the middle of this year.

Ordenez said Senators Leticia Shahani and Ernesto Maceda were assigned to look into the legal aspects of the bases issue; Defense Undersecretary Fortunato Abat for its military implications; and Economic Planning Secretary Solita Monsod and Central Bank Gov. Jose Fernandez, for the economic side.

The nature of U.S. base treaties with such countries as Spain, Turkey and Japan was given to Dr Emanuel Soriano, who represents the academic while the Justice Department will address the matter of criminal jurisdiction.

Although the studies to be presented to the committee starting next week will surely affect future negotiations on the bases, Ordenez said he does not foresee any possibility of the committee's proposing immediate abrogation of the RP-U.S. Military Bases Agreement.

He stressed, however, that only the negotiating panel can determine the substantive issues for bilateral discussion and the committee's job is limited to providing the inputs. he added though that some members of the committee may be chosen to form part of the official negotiating panel.

Asked whether the committee has received any form of influence peddling from U.S. authorities, Ordenez said it would be the height of naivete to believe the U.S. does not know what the Philippines is doing in preparations for the review.

Mitra Wants 'Alternative Plans'
HK080937 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English
8 Feb 88 pp 1, 12

[Text] Speaker Ramon V. Mitra Jr. ordered yesterday two key House committees to submit "alternative plans" for the Americans' withdrawal from Clark Air Base in Angeles City and the Subic Naval Base in Olongapo City.

He asked Reps, Jose Cojuangco (Laban, Tarlac), head of the agriculture committee, and Vicente Rivera Jr. (LB, Bulacan), of the transportation and communications committee, to study how the two bases can be put to good use in the event of the abrogation of the RP-US bases agreement.

"It is unimaginable to agree with the oft repeated argument that the economy will collapse if the Americans pull out of these areas," Mitra said.

He stressed the urgency of completing these reports soonest in the face of the renegotiations on the foreign bases with the lapse of the bilateral treaties in 1991.

"It is wrong to assume that the country cannot survive without the bases," Mitra said. "There is no evidence to show on the basis of similar experiences here and abroad that life stopped when the Americans left."

"With the sudden pullout of the United States naval station at Sangle Point two decades ago," the economic survival of Cavite was not adversely affected," Mitra said.

The Speaker said Cavite Gov. Johnny Remulla reported agricultural and industrial prosperity at Sangle Point, "showing a dramatic recovery of Filipino culture from its debasement after 50 years of close contact with the Americans."

He said the committees were asked to integrate proposals to convert Clark into an alternate international airport and communications center, and Subic into a center for local and international port.

Cojuangco should lead the committee in seeing how the fertile areas in the "heart" of Central Luzon could be developed into an agri-business center and other tracts of land into housing and commercial areas, he said.

Mitra said Rivera could use his expertise in air transport and communications in harnessing the two areas for these purposes.

"The Filipinos are not lacking in energy and initiative to upturn the situation, in consonance with the mandate of the Constitution, seeing how the Americans would leave sooner or later anyway," said the Palawan lawmaker.

Mitra, who had sat in the original negotiating panel, warned it will not be easy dealing with the Americans, considering their position as a superpower.

Rep. Raul Roco (Laban, Camarines Sur), chairman of the committee on revision of laws and member of the House bases study group, said that the bases agreement is illegal from the start in accordance with a well-established principle that no pact can be legal when entered into "as a master and as a slave." He said this was entered into "between a colonizer and a colonized people."

Meanwhile, Mitra asked the chamber anew to end all debates on agrarian reform, saying "this has dragged on for too long in the face of the heightening countryside agitation for land ownership."

A special committee, led by Cojuangco, met over the weekend in compliance with the speaker's proposal that an agreement be reached and that areas of conflict be left to be voted on after plenary debates.

Appearing at Friday's "Talakayan sa Makati," ["Makati Forum"] the regular media forum at the Manila Garden Hotel, Mitra said that the dispute on the controversial retention limit was heading toward "an ideal 15 hectares."

Mitra said he was "surprised and unprepared by the intensity of the emotions generated by agrarian reform at the House."

Pullout Would Cost P7.14 Billion

HK091407 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English
9 Feb 88 p 14

[Text] The Philippines stands to lose an estimated P7.14 billion once the U.S. bases in Clark and Subic are pulled out from the country, said Roberto Flores, president of the Federation of Filipino Civilian Employees Association in U.S. Bases in the Philippines (FFCEA).

Various groups have advocated the dismantling of the U.S. bases, calling their presence an infringement on Philippine sovereignty. Prostitution catering to U.S. servicemen in the area, in addition to the threat of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) infection, have also been cited as grounds for the bases' abolition.

Flores, who is also a member of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) national executive board, said he is campaigning for his representation in the panel that would review the RP-USA Military Bases

Agreement (MBA) this year. He said his presence in the panel would insure that the MBA's labor component is not left out during the review.

Flores explained that P1.42 billion of the P7.14 billion represents the amount the U.S. government spent last year for the salaries of Filipino workers in Clark and Subic bases. The other components of the P7.14 billion include expenditures by U.S. servicemen (P2.04 billion), military construction (P500 million), local procurement of materials (P1.8 billion), checks to dependents and retired servicemen (P1.38 billion).

At the moment, there are about 15,597 direct-hire Filipino employees in Subic Naval Base and some 6,350 direct hires in Clark, said Flores. In addition, there are 13,381 contractuels in Subic and some 9,607 in Clark. Flores said these people will be greatly affected by the pullout of the U.S. bases from the country.

Flores said it would take about 20 years before the country can come up with a good economic program for the Filipino workers who would be displaced if the U.S. bases pullout.

Most of the industries and establishments around Clark and Subic depend on the bases for their source of income. Angeles City, where Clark Air Base is situated, has about 701 manufacturing firms, 3,262 wholesale and retail stores and 1,173 establishments engaged in community, social and personal services. Olongapo City has about 227 manufacturing firms and 4,283 service firms.

Currently, only contractual workers are covered by Philippine labor laws pertaining to wages and collective bargaining, said Flores. He said salaries of direct-hire Filipino workers in the bases are determined by an annual wage survey among the top 36 companies in the country. The weighted average wage of these companies is used as the basis for the wages of the base workers.

Flores said the FFCEA opts for collective bargaining as a means of setting the wages of Filipino workers in the bases. This demand of the 23,000 federation members under Flores was rejected by the U.S. panel during the review of the Base Labor Agreement signed last September 1985.

Unions Seek Greater Role

HK091411 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 9 Feb 88 p 3

[By staff writer Hernan Melencio]

[Text] Labor unions in the U.S. military facilities in the country said yesterday they will object to a government plan to put them in the background again as a "leverage" in the forthcoming renegotiation of the RP-U.S. Military Bases Agreement [MBA].

Instead, they are pressing for representation to the review panel, saying that their effort in giving technical support to the government during the past reviews did not result in the improvement of labor relations inside the bases. "The issues we raised in the last renegotiation were left behind," said Roberto Flores, president of the Federation of Filipino Civilian Employees Associations [FFCEA].

Labor Undersecretary Carmelo Noriel, who was with the Philippine panel in the 1983-1985 MBA review, had earlier said that there had been only two changes in the Bases Labor Agreement [BLA] in its 20 years of existence. The BLA is the laws governing labor relations in the U.S. bases.

Sources in the labor department even said that the BLA was adopted only after "the outcries against oppressive and discriminatory practices in the bases became shrill." The BLA was signed on May 27, 1968, 21 years after the signing of the MBA.

Data obtained by the GLOBE indicated that the BLA failed to settle the irritants in the bases' labor relations. Issues questioning Philippine sovereignty and discrimination against Filipino workers in the bases continue to crop up.

In past negotiations, according to Noriel, the Philippine panel had pushed for the application of Philippine labor and social laws in the bases. Since American labor laws do not also apply to Filipino employees in the bases, they are not adequately protected unless, labor relations are placed under the jurisdiction of the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment [DOLE], Noriel said.

The FFCEA, an affiliate of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, is not entirely in favor of applying Philippine labor laws in the U.S. facilities, however. Flores said that while DOLE can help Filipino base workers in terms of dispute arbitration, they are on the losing end in terms of compensation. But he added that his group is seriously studying the matter.

He said that as a leader of trade unions in the bases, he is obviously against any move to dismantle the U.S. bases. "We will lobby for their retention should the government consider ending the term of these bases," he said.

"We can only agree to pull out these bases if the government can come out with a blueprint outlining its alternatives," he stressed.

Congressman Favors Retention

*HK100611 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] Congressman Antonio Abaya stated that he was in favor of the retention of U.S. military bases in the Philippines so as to maintain the balance of power in the Pacific.

At the same time, he said that in the forthcoming negotiations on the military bases, the Philippines should demand more rental, and not aid, as the United States would want.

[Begin Abaya recording] I am in favor of a new agreement between the governments of the Philippines and the United States that will modify the terms of the bases accord. I believe that the interests and the safety of not only the United States but also of the Philippines are at stake. If the bases are removed, I feel that what happened in Camh Ranh Bay in Vietnam will also occur here. The communists, the Russians, will take over and install their bases here in the Philippines. Our country will be in danger. [end recording]

That was Isabela Congressman Antonio Abaya.

'Full-Scale Discussion' Urged

*HK091421 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 9 Feb 88 p 4*

[Editorial: "Time To Debate the Bases Issue"]

[Text] In two separate instances over the weekend, the bases question surfaced in a way that clearly shows that the issue can no longer be kept under the table or in the background.

At the House of Representatives, Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. directed two committees to prepare contingency plans for the use of the U.S. military bases in the event that the government does not extend their stay in the country after 1991.

Over at the University of Santo Tomas, in a public forum, Vice President Salvador Laurel called the RP-U.S. Military Bases Agreement "a colonial document" and called for a national referendum to hammer out the nation's position regarding their continued stay or elimination.

In both instances, we have two national figures who had assiduously avoided speaking on the issue in times past finally speaking out on the bases question, albeit guardedly and indirectly. This is an indication of how the issue has developed in the interval of two years.

One or two years ago, it was the general assumption that the bases agreement would be renewed with minimal difficulty and that if the country were to hold a referendum, an affirmative vote for the bases would win hands down. Neither assumption seems certain now. Many probases advocates in fact fear now that the tide of public opinion may have already tilted irreversibly against renewal.

The remarkable fact about this changing tide of public opinion is that it has taken shape without the benefit of wide public discussion, with only the nationalists and leftists insisting on bringing up the issue and without key

policy makers in government taking part. Were the arena of debate to widen, as it should before the review of the agreement takes place this year, heaven knows what it would reveal!

For the most part, those who are in favor of retaining the bases have kept silent. This does not tell us the real way in which opinion in officialdom and among the people will divide. For it is a fair presumption that there is also a silent mass out there who, when pressed to state their position, would readily speak for the retention of the bases. But it is significant that discomfort seems to attach to outright advocacy of keeping the bases.

We believe the time has come for a full-scale discussion of the bases question in the country, not as a side issue to debates about national policy directions and foreign relations but as the central issue itself. It is time for research groups to do us the service of surveying the way current public opinion divides. And it is time for government to open up and stimulate discussion of the issue.

For its part, the DAILY GLOBE will open its pages to the service of this discussion in the belief that full ventilation of opinion and analysis of the various issues and options involved will help the nation choose the right path.

Treaty Abrogation Proposed

HK091431 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
9 Feb 88 p 4

["Alligator Advice" column by Herminio B. Coloma Jr.
"Bases of Insecurity"]

[Text] In a candid interview last week, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said that his *personal* preference was to see the U.S. military bases go, not because of the nuclear exposure peril or the issue of sovereignty. "To me," Mr Manglapus was quoted as saying, "it is the peculiar history of the Philippines vis-a-vis the U.S. which has bred dependence on the father image. This mentality will remain unless we take away these bases." (DAILY GLOBE, Feb 3, 1988)

Realistically speaking, the *official* Government position on the bases as soon as formal negotiations with the Americans commence is likely to be radically different from the personal view of the foreign affairs secretary. Hence, Mr Manglapus himself has identified at least two alternatives to the outright elimination of the bases by 1991: first, the retention of both Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Air Force Bases under a new treaty providing for more comprehensive compensation; and second, the retention of just the Subic facility and the conversion of Clark into an international airport.

But Mr Manglapus' personal position establishes the proper perspective for approaching the negotiations. Heretofore, conventional wisdom in Government circles

has invariably peddled the notion that maintenance of the bases is necessary for Philippine security and that the only sticking point to be negotiated is the amount of compensation for the use of these facilities. This is essentially the stand taken by the advocates of the debt-for-bases tradeoff.

Then history of RP-U.S. negotiations on the use of the bases has been marked by acrimony across the table and ferment in the streets. Late last year, a new element was introduced; the threat and actual use of terrorism against U.S. forces in the bases by elements of the New Peoples Army. Whether this latest factor will exert sufficient pressure on the Americans remains the subject speculation.

Former Vice-President (now Philippine Ambassador to the U.S.) Emmanuel Pelaez, a grizzled veteran of previous negotiations, is a good source of sound advice on how to deal with the Americans. Mr Pelaez will most certainly counsel the current crop of instant "experts" on the bases against adopting a complacent and cocksure posture.

Former Ambassador to the U.S. Eduardo Z. Romualdez, in his book "A Question of Sovereignty: The Military Bases in the Philippines and Philippine-American Relations, 1944-1979," relates in fine detail how at every turn the Americans have attempted to barn boozle the Philippine Government into accepting onerous terms, only to be held back by the determined resistance of nationalist elements both in Congress and in the parliament of the streets.

In the early fifties, for instance, the Americans did not even claim *sovereignty* over the bases; in effect they claimed *ownership*. Sen Claro M. Recto, a member of the Philippine negotiating panel, led the fierce campaign against such arrogant assertion. In the face of widespread public outcry, this claim was eventually "renounced" but subsequent negotiations, including the latest formal talks held in 1979, have merely reinforced the pattern of subservience into which the Filipinos have virtually locked themselves since the agreement was linked in 1947.

President Aquino's widely publicized position that her Government is "keeping its options open" on the bases does not at all contribute to a well-informed public debate which would be helpful in galvanizing a strong and determined Philippine negotiating posture. Recall that as a member of the convenor group, then candidate Cory Aquino publicly declared that she was for scrapping the bases.

Far from being an extremist position, this appears to be the only position upon which the Philippines can negotiate from a position of strength. Instead of virtually imploring the Americans to simply raise the rental or the compensation for the use of the bases and using the country's huge foreign debt as leverage, an outright

declaration by the present Government that it intends to abrogate the agreement upon its expiry will constrain the self-assured Americans to come to terms with a nation that has at last found the strength to assert its sovereignty.

Cash Bond for Visiting Chinese Doubled
HK100631 Hong Kong AFP in English 0622 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb 10 (AFP)—The Philippines is to require a 200,000 peso (9,615 dollar) cash bond from all visiting Chinese citizens to reduce the huge illegal alien population here, Immigration Commissioner Miriam Santiago said Wednesday.

The requirement was immediately applicable to Chinese and would also be slapped on citizens of other countries which account for large segments of at least 50,000 illegal aliens in the country, she told a news conference. Indonesians and Jordanians are expected to be covered by the rule, she said.

"We impose a cash bond for any alien seeking to enter the country when he belongs to a nationality which has at least 10,000 illegal aliens already in the country," she said.

The bond announced Wednesday doubled the amount earlier charged on Chinese despite a standing protest by Beijing, and was imposed despite preparations for a visit by President Corazon Aquino to China, possibly this year.

Chinese account for the most illegal aliens but no figures are available. They are harboured by relatives in the centuries-old local Chinese community, which controls major financial, business and manufacturing concerns.

Mrs. Santiago, a former judge who vowed to crack down on errant foreigners when she was appointed to her post two months ago, said there could be as many as 300,000 illegal aliens in the country.

The requirement will be doubled again for any nationality that chalks up another 10,000 illegal aliens, and other countries will be covered by the bond requirement depending on the results of an official study.

"We don't want to be accused of discrimination. That's why we are going to do this according to the statistical data we have," she said, adding that illegal aliens in the Philippines were growing at a rate of 10,000 a year.

"It is my duty to impose a cash bond when I feel that there is a need to regulate arrival in the country," she said. "It has nothing to do with politics or diplomacy." She also said that since she assumed office, a total of 108 aliens have been deported from the country.

Muslim Leader Leaves for Jeddah Meeting
HK100607 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] A top officer of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF] left for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to support the move of the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] to take an endorsement from the Organization of Islamic Conference, or OIC.

Sultan Macapanton Abbas said that his group will invite representatives of the government to debate on the proposed membership of the MNLF to the OIC. Abbas stressed that the other members of his group are expected to leave for Jeddah this week.

[Begin Abbas recording] First, we will form political unity to support the full membership of the Moro Front in the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Second, the problems of self-determination will be emphasized from the political and diplomatic level in the OIC and the United Nations. Third, we reject the government policy under Administrative Order No 30. [end recording]

Misuari Challenges Government
HK091519 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari has issued a challenge to the Aquino government in connection with the group's application for full membership in the OIC.

MNLF spokesman Datu Ibrahim Uyalong with members of the coordinating committee of the three Muslim rebel groups, today met with the media people to talk about their forthcoming trip to the Middle East. The OIC conference is to take place on 21 March in Jordan.

According to Uy, Misuari called him up last night and expressed concern over the alleged military buildup in Mindanao.

Uy also said that the Aquino government put itself in an embarrassing position when it asked the OIC to turn down the MNLF membership application. He claimed that the Philippines, not being a member of the OIC, could not influence the organization's decision.

Uy also outlined Misuari's challenge to the government.

[Begin Uy recording in English] The central committee of the MNLF will work out with the OIC a request to invite Philippine Government representatives to the OIC conference in March in order to come out with a debate with our chairman Nur Misuari regarding the entry of the MNLF to the OIC. [end recording]

Military Manhunt Continues in Metro Manila
HK091137 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1000 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The military continues with its manhunt operations for communist rebels in Metro Manila. This was announced by National Capital Regional Defense Command Chief Brigadier General Rodolfo Biazon when interviewed by Malacanang reporters. Biazon neither confirmed nor denied reports that the leader of the NPA Sparrow units is presently in Manila. Regarding the alleged torture of the arrested rebels, he said medical examinations have disproved torture.

[Begin recording in English] [Biazon] To those who were not in it, the target [words indistinct]

[Reporter] What about the torture complaints?

[Biazon] Of course I will say there is none.

[Reporter] Yes, but what is the report from people who [word indistinct] them?

[Biazon] The report is that they were given medical examinations to disprove the allegations. As a matter of fact, immediately after the capture General de Villa's concern was the constitutional rights of the people, and that they be treated well.

[Reporter] How about the operations of Mr. Kintanar? Is he in Metro Manila? [passage indistinct]

[Biazon] Do you mind if I do not answer that?

[Reporter] Are there still continuing efforts to crack-down or for arrests in these places?

[Biazon] Yes, the probability is that [words indistinct] that would lead to further arrests. [end recording]

Ramos Warns of Escalating Rebel Movement
HK091509 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television
Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Passages within slantlines in English]

[Text] Speaking at an International Association of College Women conference at the Manila Golf Club, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said that government soldiers would be operationally more capable to confront the insurgents once they have completed their election duties. Here are the details from Jessica Soho:

[Begin recording] [Soho] Secretary Ramos said the rebels were expected to continue their attacks against soldiers and military detachments in the provinces. On the Davao incident he said soldiers would be able to fight better once they had been relieved of their election duties.

[Unidentified reporter] /Could this be a trend for them to stage more attacks, one after another?

[Ramos] /Well, they can try, but you know as we get out of our election duties, I think we will again be more operationally capable to concentrate on the insurgency./

[Soho] He also commented on the issue of lodging a diplomatic protest against the Netherlands in connection with the confiscation of crates labeled Royal Netherlands Embassy from alleged communist hideouts in Metro Manila.

[Ramos] /At the moment, there is no basis really for the filing of such a protest, unless it can be shown that the shipment of these goods was carried out with the consent of the government concerned. But as we know, there are many outlets and channels through which assistance is transmitted./

[Soho] Ramos also warned that the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA movement would spread even more extensively in the next three years, and that they would put their 67 front guerrilla organizations to full use.

According to him, the NPA or the military component of the Communist Party constitutes only a small part as the party built up its political structure in recent years.

This is Jessica Soho reporting for GMA Balita [news].
[end recording]

CPP Says Ramos' Appointment Causes Violence
HK060823 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English
5 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[By Antero F. Soriano, with reports filed by Luz del Rosario]

[Excerpts] Twenty top officials of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] and the New People's Army were captured yesterday in a series of military operations in Metro Manila, including a raid on a field hospital in Fairview subdivision in Quezon City. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines warned of a new round of open terrorism with the appointment of former AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief-of-staff Gen. Fidel V. Ramos as defense secretary and the promotion of Gen. Renato de Villa to chief of staff.

In the January 1988 issue of the CPP publication ANG BAYAN [THE NATION] the party leadership countered the government's claims that the rebels were on the losing end of the war, and said that they have achieved significant victories against the AFP.

Internal developments, on the other hand, were ripe for the organization to move on to the stalemate stage of the guerrilla war, the CPP said.

Cited as a significant achievement was the increase of 50 percent in the membership of the New People's Army, which was placed at 7,000 in 1986.

The insurgents also claimed success in the sabotage of AFP operations. They said in Mindanao alone, some 15 tanks were either totally or partially destroyed by the NPA last year.

The insurgents also said they captured a military document dated Jan. 20, 1988 in which the military said its fatalities last year reached 2,046, and some 1,073 firearms were confiscated by the rebels.

The CPP's claims counter those of the military, which last week said that for the 13 months from January 1987 to January 1988, the AFP lost only 1,172 of its men.

The CPP also stated:

—Many states were willing to recognize the National Democratic Front as a revolutionary government, virtually giving it the status of a belligerent.

—The resignation of Defense Secretary Rafael Iloilo signals further factionalism within the ruling class, and Ramos' entry as an official member of the Aquino Cabinet signals the strengthening of the military hand in the government.

Cordillera Group Assails 'Total War Strategy'
HK091349 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 8 Feb 88 p 9

[Text] Baguio City—The clandestine Cordillera People's Democratic Front (CPDF) has accused the Aquino Government of "colluding with U.S. policy-makers" in implementing a "total war strategy designed to pit Filipinos against each other."

In the first issue of FETAD, the front's official publication released late January but received only last Feb. 5, CPDF also claimed that from April to December 1987, the Chadli Molintas command of the New People's Army waged at least "14 successful offensive" in which 45 government troopers and paramilitary men were killed in three provinces of the Cordillera region alone. CPDF, an affiliate of the National Democratic Front, also said the Government's counterinsurgency policy "was created by U.S. warmongers to stem the tide of people's revolutionary movements which has been erupting throughout the Third World."

The strategy, it said, "makes use of political and military to cultural and economic programs which may help frustrate, destroy or prevent the people (from realizing) fundamental social change."

CPDF said the policy "avoids the use of conventional war tactics, especially those involving the deployment of American troops on a massive scale."

In the Cordillera region, the CPDF claimed that "the region has employed the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA), the Cordillera Administrative Region,

and a number of pro-imperialist groups and institutions" like the New Tribes Mission, the Youth With A Mission, and the U.S. Peace Corps as tools for the total war policy.

The CPDF also labeled expriest Conrado Balweg's CPLA as a "protect of the reactionary state's intelligence and defense agencies." It also said the Cordillera autonomous Region was "the political component of the Aquino Government's total war strategy in the Cordillera."

The 12-page FETAD complete with computer graphics and depiction of the CPDF flag, included a report on the "exploits" of the Cordillera Operational Command of the NPA, now renamed the Chadli Molintas Command (CMC) in honor of the 24-year-old Ibaloi Guerrilla leader Wright Molintas Jr. who sat in the CPDF council during the 1987 ceasefire talks but who was killed by government troops in July 1987 in La Union.

Based on partial field reports FETAD said that its tactical offensives from April-December 1987 killed 45 government troopers including nine CPLA members in the northern Luzon provinces of Abra, Ifugao and Mt. Province.

It also disclosed that CMC was still holding three government soldiers captured last Nov. 17 along the Abra-Kalinga road of Masisiat, Baay-Licuan, Abra province.

In a detailed description of the offensives, FETAD disclosed that at least six municipal-level raids were conducted by guerrillas during the same period.

Thailand

Further Reportage on Border Dispute With Laos

Laos Said To Shell New Targets
BK100225 Bangkok THE NATION in English
10 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] Phitsanulok—Laotian forces expanded the border battle yesterday by shelling new targets inside Thailand, a senior Thai army officer said.

It was the first time that Laotian gunners "intentionally" pounded villages in Na Hao District of Loei, next to Phitsanulok, said Lt Gen Siri Thiwaphan, commander of the Third Army Region;

However, Gen Sunthon Khongsompohong, armed forces chief of staff, played down the shelling, saying that it was only a "provocation."

"Laos seems to be expanding the battlefield," Siri said at the region headquarters here. "Today they hit Nacha-roen Village, about 10 kilometres from the battle area and Na Phakham Village, another 5 kilometres further south."

About 500 Thai villagers live in Nacharoen and Na Phakham, but have not yet been evacuated.

The two villages were hit by about 20 130-mm artillery shells, Col Rithi Rattaphuti, the regional army's spokesman, told reporters. He did not reveal casualties.

Thai forces retaliated with artillery fire into Laos, he said. But the Laotian casualties were not known.

On Monday, Laotian gunners fired 20 artillery shells into the same areas, wounding two Thai villagers, said Ritthi.

"Laos intended to intensify the conflict by firing into the areas," Siri said.

Siri said Laos' expansion of the conflict was strongly backed by a "third country," an apparent reference to Vietnam which has an estimated 40,000 troops in Laos.

"Laos recently got reinforcements all along the border," he said. "Foreign soldiers are involved."

Earlier, Thai Army secretary Maj Gen Narudon Detpradiyut told reporters that 69 Vietnamese troops had been killed and more than 100 others wounded in the fighting on Hill 1428 near Romklao village. Other sources indicated the information on Vietnamese casualties was based on reports from inside Laos.

Thai officials speculate that Vietnam is using the conflict to pressure Thailand to agree to a Kampuchean settlement favourable to Vietnam.

An official Lao radio broadcast yesterday ridiculed the Thai charges that Vietnamese soldiers were assisting Lao troops.

This is incredible, impossible, and very ridiculous because not a single foreign soldier is in the battlefield in Boten district," Radio Laos said. such a charge can only have been made by a retarded person."

Meanwhile, a small number of Thai villagers in Na Hao District of Loei allegedly have smuggled logistics across the border in exchange for poppies supplied by the Laotian troops.

In the disputed area claimed by both countries, Thai and Laotian forces continued their artillery duel, though fighting was not as intense as last week.

Thai army officers declined to give casualties on the Thai side, but said about 70-100 Laotian troops still remained in two target areas on the rugged, remote hill near Chat Trakan District.

They said about 200-300 Laotian soldiers were poised to cross the border into Thailand to back their colleagues.

Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, army commander in chief, yesterday stressed that Thai troops had begun to operate at full strength, "without limitation."

Chawalit had earlier said Thai forces may consider crossing the border to attack Laotian positions from the rear.

In Bangkok, Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon yesterday discussed the border dispute with Defence Minister Phaniang Kanatarat, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila, Interior Minister Prachuap Suntharangkun, National Security Council chief Suwit Sutthanukun and Chawalit.

After the discussion, Phaniang told reporters that Prem expressed concern over the conflict.

Asked whether Cuban troops are helping the Laotians, Phaniang said he could not confirm the reports. But he added that one of the languages used in the Laotian field radio exchanges were neither Vietnamese nor Laotian.

Laos and Thailand have been fighting over a 70 sq km strip of mountainous jungle in Phitsanulok about 434 km north of Bangkok, for about 10 weeks, but the battles escalated sharply last week. More than 250 men have died on both sides.

Customs To Tighten Checkpoints

BK100233 Bangkok *BANGKOK POST* in English
10 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] The Customs Department was instructed yesterday to impose stricter measures at checkpoints along the Thai-Lao border to prevent strategic military supplies from entering Laos.

The instruction was given to Deputy Finance Minister Praphat Phothisuthon by Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon during a meeting yesterday.

Mr Praphat said he had ordered Customs Department chief Wirot Laohaphan and his deputy Somchainuk Engtrakun, to travel to the north and northeast to inspect the 14 checkpoints at the border.

The deputy minister said Thailand had two permanent customs checkpoints with Laos, which would be left open despite tighter screening measures.

The remaining checkpoints, which are classified as temporary, will remain closed, he said.

Local Contacts Continue as Usual

BK100245 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
10 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] Nong Khai—While a fierce Thai-Laotian border conflict rages just 400 kilometres away, "Nong Khai authorities still abide by the brotherhood policy," the provincial governor said.

"The border battle near Ban Romklao (Phitsanulok province) is limited only to that area," Governor Santi Manikan said over the weekend. But Nong Khai, though opposite the Laotian capital, "is not a war zone."

He said contacts between local people on both sides of Mekong River are going on normally.

Santi disclosed that the northeastern city this year will invite the Vientiane administration to send boats to race with Thais in the annual boat racing festival between local Thai and Laotian people.

Santi said the provincial officials issue about 70-80 permits daily for local Thais to cross the border to visit their relatives in Laos.

There are currently two official border passes open for trade and goods transport across the border river between Nong Khai and the Laotian capital of Vientiane.

Thai-Laotian trade amounts to less than 1,000 million baht annually, said Santi, adding that Nong Khai also buys Laotian electricity to help Laos economically.

He said Thailand has also sent its rice through international relief agencies to help Laotian people facing food shortage caused by drought.

"We do not consider Laotian people enemies and we could not monitor whether Vientiane has distributed our rice to its soldiers," he said.

However, Santi said the provincial officials have become more strict about border crossing due to the ongoing battle, which has claimed more than 250 lives.

Thailand and Laos have battled since November to control remote, rugged hills in the 70-square-kilometre disputed area near Chat Trakan District of Phitsanulok.

Though Laotian forces in Vientiane were recently put on alert for fear of Thai attack, Santi said Thailand has sent no reinforcements into Nong Khai.

"We do not want relations between Nong Khai and Vientiane to be strained and we believe Laos will pull out its troops from the border area soon," he said.

He said official Laotian radio makes daily charges against Thailand about the border conflict, adding that the broadcast can be monitored in Thailand.

"It's normal for the government of a country engaged in battle to try to convince its people that it's doing the right thing," said the governor.

Nong Khai defence volunteers will hold an annual traditional parade in the provincial town today, he said, urging Laotian authorities not to misinterpret the event as a protest against Laos.

"Neither side ever wants to have a war" Santi said. "We want Nong Khai to be free from any dispute and to maintain brotherly relations with Vientiane."

Prem Reiterates Stand on Lao Border Situation
BK100920 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
0000 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon disclosed that his meeting with the foreign, defense, and interior ministers and the Army commander yesterday at Government House was a general, not a special meeting. The prime minister said the defense minister informed the cabinet that there has been no major change in the border situation at Ban Romklao. He said that the Foreign Ministry has made no new progress on the dispute and that Thailand's stand remains unchanged.

Asked how long it will take the military to drive out the intruding foreign forces, the prime minister replied that because it depends on the situation's progress, it is impossible to set a deadline. He said the battle situation continues to improve for Thailand, and proceeds poorly for the enemy. He said he will visit soldiers at the border again at some time.

The prime minister said diplomacy is the best way to end the fighting but because Laos does not want to hold talks with Thailand and because Thailand is not the guilty party, Thailand will negotiate with Laos only when Laos does the right thing.

Asked how people in the rear should conduct themselves in light of battle at the border, the prime minister said every citizen must support the soldiers' operations and give them moral encouragement.

Army Radio Discusses Lao Border Problem
BK091615 Bangkok First Army Division Radio
in Thai 2300 GMT 7 Feb 88

[**"Army Meets the People"** feature]

[Summary] Thailand and Laos have a long history of close relations. Both peoples have blood relations from time immemorial, speak a similar language, and believe in the same religion. It is normal for countries sharing a common border to have some disputes, but the disputes between Thailand and Laos had not been serious. The present Thai-Lao border dispute began in late 1987 when Laos sent its soldiers 5 to 8 km into Thai territory in Ban Romklao and seized strategic locations in the area. The Thai soldiers had to try to drive out the Lao troops,

"using appropriate-size combat forces and limited operations in order to prevent the conflict from escalating into a major war." The operation is being conducted within these limits, step by step, which can be time consuming.

There are probably several reasons for the sudden Lao change of attitude toward Thailand, although Laos has to depend on Thailand for many things.

1. "Laos is being directed by a third country that wants to shift the hot spot from Cambodia to the upper part of the Thai-Lao border in an effort to pressure Laos into asking the third country to maintain its forces in Laos. This would enable the third country to justify its military presence in Laos to the United Nations."
2. "The Indochinese countries want to test Thai capabilities, especially the efficiency of Thailand's air warning system, and to see how Thailand coordinates its electronic warfare system with its ground and air forces, which means testing Thailand's war potential."
3. "The Lao Government has decided to wage a proxy war by itself in exchange for economic or other assistance."

Thai-Lao relations have soured ever since Laos came under the influence of a third country. "The said third country has set up a puppet government by selecting Lao people who favor a superpower that is already its patron. Instead of acting to defend the national interests of Laos, these puppets have sought to obey the commands of their patron country in exchange for their own gains and those of their associates. Laos' natural resources have been shifted to help its patron instead of being used for the benefit of the Lao people. The third country has also incited the Lao people to hate their fraternal country, Thailand, and has taught the Lao people blind loyalty to that patron country. A large number of Lao people have been misled and have committed acts of unprecedented aggression against Thailand." The continually slanderous propaganda campaigns, the violations of Thai sovereignty and the irresponsible political schemes will only distance our two countries, eventually to the point of confrontation. Do the majority of the Lao people want this?

Despite Lao anti-Thai propaganda, Thailand still harbors sincerity toward the Lao people. It has closed neither border transit nor trading points with Laos. Whenever Thailand retaliated against Laos, Laos always used the opportunity to launch propaganda attacking Thailand, which only damaged Laos' reputation. Thailand has invited foreign diplomats to observe the actual situation. Thailand's retaliation has been in the form of reason and evidence. "Many foreigners wondered how Thailand could remain patient and gentlemanly toward the crooks."

Laos is using a map published by the Soviet Union in 1986-87 to claim the area that is about 8 km inside Thai territory while Thailand is using the 1907 French-Thai treaty and protocol, which has been accepted by the Lao

side. "If the evidence, which has been used jointly by both Thailand and Laos, was wrong, why did Laos not voice any objections before?" The name Phu Soi Dao, which was referred to by the Lao side as a point for determining the boundary line, does not exist in this treaty. Thailand cannot tolerate the present Lao behavior because no one knows when the boss of those in the Lao Government will issue a new map including the Chao Phraya River as a boundary line.

We pity the Lao people for ignoring their traitors' behavior. We still hope that one day the Lao people will see the light and will be able to wipe out this group of traitors. All Thai people still dream about the two peoples' being able to contact each other as brothers.

Our Armed Forces are operating to drive the intruders out of the area. All Thai soldiers are determined to retake Thai territory at all costs and are ready to sacrifice themselves for their country.

Ministry Reiterates Refugee Policy to UN
BK100235 Bangkok THE NATION in English
10 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] The Interior Ministry yesterday told the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that Thailand must push back Vietnamese arriving in the eastern province of Trat because of security concern.

Somphon Klinphongsa, deputy permanent secretary for interior, said he told UNHCR Representative Gerald Walzer that Thailand will continue to apply humanitarian principles with "refugees," but has to prevent the entering of "illegal immigrants."

Walzer called on Somphon at the ministry yesterday to raise UNHCR concern over the situation in Trat. The UNHCR representative declined to comment on the meeting when contacted by The Nation.

"What are we supposed to do with these Vietnamese immigrants? Do we have to shelter them indefinitely? These new arrivals came to Thailand not because they were persecuted at home. There is no war in Vietnam at the moment," Somphon told reporters.

He said Walzer also expressed concern over the ban on UNHCR officials from visiting the Vietnamese refugees.

He said he told Walzer that Vietnamese who have already landed on Thai shores will not be pushed out, and that UNHCR officials are allowed to see the refugees only after they get permission from Thai authorities.

"If we know that floodwater is coming our way but we do not build a dam to stop it, our house will be flooded," he said.

Meanwhile, Somphon said Interior Minister Prachuap Suntharangkun will meet United States Ambassador William Brown next Monday at the ministry.

A spokesman of the US Embassy said Brown has asked to see Prachuap to discuss the current refugee situation.

U.S. Ambassador Criticized on Refugee Issue
BK101015 Bangkok NAEON in Thai
10 Feb 88 p 5

[Editorial: "Who are the Refugees?"]

[Text] The U.S. ambassador to Thailand and the Thai interior minister have a difference of opinion on the issue of helping Indochinese illegal immigrants because they are looking at the issue from a different viewpoint. Thailand and the United States should review the positions and rights of both sides in order to prevent this issue from leading to further misunderstanding.

This issue obviously concerns Thailand directly. The influx of Indochinese war refugees into Thailand began in 1975-76 when Cambodia and Laos fell to the communists. Hundreds of thousands of people from these two countries have fled to Thailand. In addition, Vietnamese people unhappy with the communist system have also poured into Thailand by boat.

Thailand, upholding humanitarian and moral principles, has provided assistance to these people. The Thai Government agreed to shoulder the burden and has never blamed or berated friendly countries that failed to fulfill promises to take these refugees.

The Thai government's kindness has enabled hundreds of thousands of refugees to survive. However, the government has had to face its own people's criticism that it has assisted foreign nationals more than its own people.

The U.S. request for Thailand to accept Vietnamese boat people at this time is a violation of internal Thai affairs. These people are not facing the threat of war because the war ended over 10 years ago. Thailand must follow the law strictly because, besides the influx of Vietnamese, there are also hundreds of thousands of other nationals, such as Indians and Pakistanis who enter Thailand illegally to earn a living.

The present U.S. ambassador has clashed with other governments before coming to Thailand because of his inappropriate behavior in violating or interfering in those countries' internal affairs. The proper way to deal with the Indochinese refugee issue is through direct contact between the Thai and U.S. governments, not by just allowing the ambassador to make decisions alone.

Daily Refutes UNHCR Appeal for Boat People
BK100939 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai
10 Feb 88 p 3

[Editorial: "Humanity"]

[Text] The United Nations High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] has appealed to Thailand to continue its humane policy toward Vietnamese refugees, following Thailand's adoption of drastic measures to deal with Vietnamese refugees who arrive by boat in Trat Province from Cambodia.

Although the Thai Government's previous open arms policy toward refugees has received praise from the international community, which said the policy was based on humanitarian principles, we doubt the accuracy of the UNHCR's claim that the Thai refugee policy "benefits" everyone concerned.

In the decade since Thailand opened its doors to refugees from neighboring countries, it has faced countless economic, social, and national security problems. A refugee policy which emphasizes humanitarian principles may benefit some groups, but it has been mostly detrimental to Thailand.

UNHCR figures show that in 1987, 28,116 Vietnamese, the highest figure since 1982, fled Vietnam to neighboring countries, and Thailand had to carry the biggest burden created by these refugees.

An interesting question is: Why have the Vietnamese continued to flee their country in such great numbers when the conversion to the communist system in their country occurred over 10 years ago and why have they changed their escape route from the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand to a route through Cambodia?

Given the fact that over 100,000 Vietnamese soldiers occupy most of Cambodia and Phnom Penh government officials are Hanoi backed, it is not likely that tens of thousands of Vietnamese could cross Cambodia and board boats from there for Thailand without the consent of Vietnamese and Phnom Penh officials in Cambodia.

We trust that the Thai Government will reject the UNHCR's "well-intended" appeal and urge the UNHCR to insist that the SRV Government implement the Orderly Departure Program as agreed.

NATION Probes Trade Policy With Vietnam
BK100207 Bangkok THE NATION in English
10 Feb 88 p 5

[Text] Trading with Vietnam is a sensitive political issue in ASEAN. The private sector from the frontline state, Thailand, has begun to do business with Vietnam more openly despite the government's apprehension. Kavi Chongkittawon analyzes what could take place in the near future.

Thailand's foreign policy may be failing, but top policy makers do not seem to know it. Questions on the ambiguous policy regarding trading with Vietnam will soon come to a head.

Apparently, the Thai government has underestimated the scope of Thai traders' interest in Vietnam all along. Authorities here believe that bureaucratic red tape and other "risky factors," including the lack of hard foreign currency and basic facilities in Vietnam, will discourage enthusiastic traders and investors. But they are wrong.

Besides the normal export-import business and joint ventures in fishing, shrimp culture, orchid nursing, jewelry industry and construction, Thai businessmen have already looked into future lucrative areas such as banking and other industrial projects.

Rapid expansion of Thai-Vietnamese trade would have a far-reaching impact, especially in the economic boycott against Hanoi supported by many of the international community.

Until now, Western countries, especially the United States, have maintained the policy of isolating Vietnam economically. In the past eight years, this policy seemed to work, in the sense that it has somehow slowed down economic development, sometimes at the expense of poor Vietnamese. Just look at the number of Vietnamese fleeing the country who cite economic hardship as the main cause.

But time has elapsed, it has become evident that the policy of "bleeding Vietnam white" has not brought about the desired result—to force Vietnam to the negotiating table for a settlement in Kampuchea.

After the Sixth Party Congress at the end of 1986, the Vietnamese leaders admitted their past errors and expressed the desire to improve the standard of living of their people. Their openness was itself an indication of reform economic policies.

Since then, Vietnam has courted foreign countries, near and far, and most capitalist nations, for business deals and investment both in terms of capital and technical know-how. The new foreign investment code illustrates this effort.

Naturally, countries surrounding Vietnam, given their geographical proximity, would want to explore the business opportunities there. Thailand is no exception.

Trading with Vietnam is not a new thing. When the economic boycott began in 1979, some clandestine trade transactions between Vietnam and non-communist countries continued in the most discreet way.

Ironically, as the 1990 deadline for promised Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Kampuchea draws near and the prospect for the settlement of the Kampuchean war

has slightly improved, the patience of countries wanting to trade with Vietnam has gradually disappeared. Ostensibly, they all want to establish a foothold in trading with Vietnam, the only large consumer market—62.2 million people—left unexplored in this part of the world.

Never before has the trade issue been such a controversial irritant as in the past two years, as countries in the region have nagged at one another, some openly as in the case of Japan and others in private such as South Korea and ASEAN countries, for trading with Vietnam surreptitiously.

Among ASEAN countries, the general ground rule is that there will be no government-to-government trade between them and Hanoi. The ASEAN private sectors have been allowed to take the lead and see what happens. But providing long-term credits and advanced technological transfers are prohibited.

In the past, this policy has served ASEAN well mainly because Thailand, a hardliner as far as the Kampuchean problem is concerned, has remained docile in trading with Vietnam. Other ASEAN countries, especially Singapore and Indonesia, cashed in. Singapore has benefited the most, despite its hardline policy, from Thailand's anti-Vietnam policy. Most financial transactions between Thailand and Vietnam go through banks in Singapore.

Early last year, Thai businessmen began to knock on Vietnam's door in large numbers. Very much to their surprise, they have found out Vietnam is eager to trade with them. For them, business is business.

It is understandable why Vietnam is so eager to draw in Thai businessmen. For the past nine years, Thailand has been the leader in campaigning against Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea. Having Thai businessmen deeply involved in business transactions can serve Vietnam's interest.

With the frontline state's traders inside Vietnam themselves, one immediate effect is that it will quiet Thailand's outcry. Moreover, it will also weaken the Thai position on anti-Vietnam trade policy.

Last March, Thailand spearheaded the ASEAN campaign to protest Japan's private sector providing credit to Vietnam. The campaign was a success after the US joined in condemning Japan's policy.

Since then the situation has changed rapidly. It is interesting to see how ASEAN countries will react to the rapid expansion of economic relations between Thailand and Vietnam. Will it lead to more trade between Vietnam and foreign countries? Is it going to end the economic boycott against Vietnam? Will it lead to the resumption of foreign aid to Vietnam in the near future?

According to US diplomats here, the US seems to take this development seriously as Washington awaits the progress of the cases of missing Americans. If there is no satisfactory outcome, Thai-Vietnamese trade could also upset the whole delicate process of normalization between US and Vietnam. The US has so far been very cautious in negotiating with Vietnam over the MiA issue—trying not to suggest any premature political move from the American side which could jeopardize the Thai position.

But development of regional trade with Vietnam would make the US boycott against Vietnam ineffective. Indeed, when Japan traded with Vietnam, one saw "Japan-bashing" in the US Congress. Will there be Thai-bashing?

Thailand may be caught in a "damned if you do, damned if you don't" position over the Vietnamese trade issue.

With the Thai private sector deeply involved in Vietnam, other countries will feel less inhibited to follow suit. Countries like Japan and South Korea are waiting in the wings. That's exactly what Vietnam has in mind. Certainly, the Thai-Vietnamese fishing joint venture prospect is an enticing deal.

Already, about 100 trawler owners from around the country have expressed interest in sending their trawlers to fish legally in Vietnam's waters. A private company last month signed an agreement with Vietnam for a three-month trial fishing period. If everything goes well, the Thai-Vietnamese fishing joint venture will be concluded in May. It is possible that by the end of the year, hundreds of Thai trawlers will be in Vietnam.

As is well-known, on any given day about 600-700 medium size Thai trawlers fish illegally inside Vietnamese and Kampuchean waters.

Against this background, some Thai officials say it is possible to overstate Thai-Vietnamese trade ties. It will take some time before the ties solidify. There are obstacles and bureaucratic red tape, but Thai businessmen are equally determined to make the best of Vietnam's current economic situation.

Given this new environment, the Vietnamese can easily use the trade issue to exploit ASEAN differences for its short-term interest. But will they?

The answer lies in the attitude of the Vietnamese leadership toward the region, especially ASEAN. There seems to be a new emphasis emerging from Vietnam that is more conciliatory in nature. In the past Vietnam was accused of using every existing opportunity to drive a wedge between ASEAN and the world community. But the tactic did not work, and in fact it backfired.

Apparently, Vietnam has finally learned the lesson that it cannot disrupt ASEAN unity and solidarity as easily as it could influence American sentiment.

Nonetheless, in spite of the new openness in Vietnam, Thai policy makers are not convinced of Hanoi's professed attention. "Vietnam wants to have the cake and eat it too," said a senior Thai foreign ministry official who has negotiated with Vietnam.

Like rubbing salt into a wound, Thailand has also alleged that Vietnam has a direct hand in the on-going Thai-Lao border fighting in Phitsanulok Province. Such a belief helps to strengthen the stereotype of Vietnam held by Thai authorities. According to this view, Vietnam will continue to use any existing opportunity to destabilize the region, especially Thailand. So the argument goes that Hanoi's desire to improve its economy is just a pretext to prolong its occupation of Kampuchea.

To prove otherwise, Hanoi has to match words with actions. If the Vietnamese want ASEAN and the world to trust them, the coming months will be crucial. As the effort by Prince Norodom Sihanouk to end the Kampuchean war gains momentum, Hanoi can prove its sincerity. Vietnam can make or break the initiative.

It would be wise also for Thailand to make some necessary adjustments in its foreign policy posture toward Vietnam to create a more conducive atmosphere for normalization. As a confidence-building measure, the two sides should hold a dialogue, even an informal one, to prevent any guessing game of each other's ulterior intention. The two countries have not held direct talks for more than three years.

This is too long for neighbours who share so many similarities and interests to be so hostile toward each other.

Commerce Office Seeks Trade With 4 'Tigers'
BK100231 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
10 Feb 88 p 15

[Text] The removal of US Generalised System of Preferences [GSP] status from South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore may force investors from these countries to invest here to exploit Thailand's GSP status.

Deputy Commerce Minister Prachuap Chaiyasan said Thailand's production technology and market contacts with the US were not as deep or efficient as these four countries because of their longer presence in the marketplace.

Therefore, Thai businessmen may have to enter joint ventures with counterparts from these four countries in order to move faster although, in doing so, it was important to ensure that the conditions of the joint ventures did not disadvantage the Thai side.

It would be a positive addition, he said, if the joint ventures geared towards exports to the US had American involvement as the American partner could help secure markets in the US.

Thai investors should group together and select the right foreign partners for any particular joint venture, he said.

"On the other hand, if Thai firms want to go it alone, they should know that GSP privileges can be taken from Thailand and that a firm client base was necessary before investing heavily in production," said Mr Prachuap.

Column Urges Liberalizing Soybean Market
BK081325 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai
8 Feb 88 p 8

["Kasetsamphan Column"]

[Excerpts] It appears that our country has recently become very attractive, since high-ranking guests from foreign countries have come to visit Thailand one after another.

Richard E. Lyng, the U.S. secretary of agriculture, is among those who visited Thailand recently. [passage omitted]

The U.S. secretary of agriculture reminded Thailand of its promise to adopt a free trade system in soybean. That we have not yet fulfilled our promise merits concern, because Thailand may "lose its reputation and credit" with the United States, our great ally, and other countries that follow this issue.

As a result, we want to remind the government that failure to allow free trade in soybean will not only cause problems such as those currently facing livestock-raising circles, but will also cause the United States and other countries to lose faith in our sincerity and eventually to stop trading with us.

This does not mean we want to bow down to the United States. Rather, we want to let the United States and other countries see that we are sincere and uphold the principles of free trade.

The government should have told the United States during the meeting that we will surely adopt a free trade system for soybean. This will help solve problems facing the soybean-related industries, such as vegetable oil, feed mills, canned food, and livestock-raising industries as well as meat export. At the same time, it will not affect our soybean farmers because we can protect them with tariff measures. The government will also be able to get more money, which can be used to promote soybean planting. In this way the soybean output will be able to meet domestic demand.

The government should be farsighted and wise in considering the adverse consequences of the past 2 to 3 months caused by delaying a decision on the soybean issue.

Mr Lyng's visit is aimed at seeking allies with the same free trade stand and with which the United States can trade.

The United States has announced the withdrawal of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) privileges from the "four tigers of Asia," namely Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Singapore.

Thailand, which still enjoys GSP privileges, should take this opportunity to assure the United States of Thai sincerity so that the United States will increase the opportunities for Thai products to replace those from the "four tigers of Asia."

Since the representative from the U.S. Government has said that it will not bully us on the rice issue and that it is willing to cooperate with Thailand on free trade issues, we should consider something that will be beneficial to us or to both sides, such as free soybean trade.

This will help Thailand achieve an equal footing with the United States and other countries in international trade.

In accordance with the Thai tradition of promoting mutual benefit, we will be able to march shoulder to shoulder with other civilized countries on the path of free trade.

Vietnam

Text of Statement Condemning Thailand
BK091544 Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT
9 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA/OANA Feb 9—The Socialist Republic of Vietnam vehemently condemns the Thai ultra-rightists for their continued attacks of Lao territory in Sayaboury Province, and demands that they put an immediate end to their acts of aggression.

This came in a statement issued here today by a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry.

The statement reads: "As pointed out by a statement of Laos's Ministry for Foreign Affairs on Feb 5, the situation along the Lao-Thai border in Na Bonoi village of Sayaboury Province remained tense in recent days. Regardless of well-intentioned proposals of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and protests of world public opinion, some responsible men in the Thai ruling circles openly encouraged land-grabbing attacks and threatened to use armed forces to 'push back the Lao troops out of the disputed area'. Thailand has sent a large number of troops in two army regions and its special force, under artillery and air support, to launch massive

attacks on Lao positions in the province. More serious still, Thai Air Force discriminately dropped bombs including pellet bombs to kill many Lao civilians. At the same time, Thailand imposed a ban on trade between the people along the border of the two countries, and increased its propaganda and hostile acts against the LPDR.

"The above-said dangerous escalation of violations have been prompted by the Thai ultra-rightists' systematic attempts to invade Lao territory. Since the signing of the Franco-Siam Treaties in 1904 and 1907, they have never given up their intention to encroach parts of Lao territory. In the 1941-1946 period, relying on the Japanese fascists in the Second World War, they occupied Lao territory in Sayaboury Province. In 1984, Thailand openly sent its troops to invade three Lao hamlets, which has not yet been resolved. Thailand's impudent statement to use force to solve the disputes over Na Banoi village indicates that the Thai ruling circles do not give up their ambition to annex Lao territory. Their military adventure supported by international reactionary forces is also aimed at causing tension in the region in a bid to justify their policy of confrontation condemned by public opinion at home and abroad.

"The Thai authorities have repeated their accusation of Vietnam relating to the Lao-Thai border dispute in order to divert public opinion and serve foreign reactionaries' attempt to block the developing trend for dialogues now prevailing in the region. The Thai authorities' acts will surely end in failure because they completely run counter to the interests of the Lao and Thai peoples as well as to the aspiration for peace and stability of other peoples in Southeast Asia.

"The Socialist Republic of Vietnam strongly condemns the Thai ultrarightists for their land-grabbing attacks against Laos and their sabotage of regional peace and stability and demands that they immediately put an end to all these acts. The Vietnamese Government and people absolutely support the just stance and good-will attitude of the Lao People's Democratic Republic which is persistently calling upon Thailand to sit down for negotiations to solve problems in their bilateral relations in the spirit of good neighbourliness and on the principles as expounded in the two Lao-Thai Joint Statements in 1979. Vietnam voices full support to the LPDR in its struggle for defending sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Hanoi Meeting Marks Solidarity With Laos
BK080046 Hanoi VNA in English 1531 GMT
6 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 6—A meeting was held here today in support of the Lao People's Democratic Republic's struggle against the aggressive acts of the reactionaries in the Thai ruling circles against Na Banoi village, Boten District, Sayaboury Province.

The meeting was sponsored by the Vietnam Fatherland Front, the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Peoples and the Hanoi chapter of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association (V.L.F.A.).

Among those present at the meeting were Nong Quoc Chan, vice president of the V.L.F.A., Lao charge d'affaires ad interim in Vietnam Thouan Volasan and Kampuchean Ambassador Tep Hen.

A resolution adopted at the meeting voiced full support for the goodwill stance of the L.P.D.R. Government, and demanded that Thailand withdraw its troops from Boten District and agree to sit down and hold talks with Laos on an equal footing and without preconditions.

VNA Reports Soviet Groups Support for Laos
BK081559 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT
8 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb 8—The Soviet Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, the Soviet-Lao Friendship Society, and the Soviet Women's Committee have voiced full support for Lao proposals for settling by peaceful means the current Lao-Thai border dispute.

In their recent statements, these mass organizations expressed deep concern over the increasing armed attacks by Thai forces against Laos since December 15 last year. They demanded that Thailand put an immediate end to its acts of aggression and settle the conflict by negotiations.

LPRP, KPRP Send Greetings on CPV Anniversary
BK061548 Hanoi VNA in English 1530 GMT
6 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb 6—The Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea have sent their greetings to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam on the 58th founding anniversary of the CPV (Feb 3).

In their messages the Lao and Kampuchean party leaders praised the continual strengthening of the special relations, close friendship and all-round cooperation among the three parties and nations. They expressed thanks to the Communist Party and people of Vietnam for their invaluable and disinterested assistance to the revolution in Laos and Kampuchea.

Indonesian Army Delegation Pays 6-Day Visit
BK051559 Hanoi VNA in English 1453 GMT
5 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb 5—An Indonesian infantry delegation led by General T. Sutrisno, chief of the infantry staff, arrived here on Feb 4 for a friendship visit at the invitation of the Ministry of National Defence.

The delegation was welcomed by Senior-Lieutenant General Doan Khue, chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army, Senior Lieutenant-General Tran Van Quang, vice minister of National Defence and other high-ranking officers.

Indonesian Ambassador Johannes Petrus Louhanapessy and military attache Mokhtar Syaiful Mufty, were also present.

The same day, Senior Lieutenant General Doan Khue hosted a reception in honour of the Indonesian guests. In his welcome speech, Doan Khue said that the two peoples share many things in history, both regained national independence from the colonialists in 1945 and both have spent long and hard years fighting to defend their independence.

The exchange of visits, including those by high-level military delegations, has opened new pages for the development of the friendship and mutual understanding between the two peoples and armed forces.

In his reply, General T. Soetrisno expressed his wishes for the continued development of the fine traditions of friendship between the peoples and armed forces of Vietnam and Indonesia.

Concludes Visit 9 February
BK091545 Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT
9 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.9—An Indonesian Army delegation led by General T. Soetrisno, chief of the Army staff, concluded a 6-day visit to Vietnam today.

The delegation was seen off at the guest house of the Defense Ministry by Sen Lt-Gen Doan Khue, chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army, Sen Lt-Gen Tran Van Quang, vice minister of national defence, and other high-ranking Vietnamese officers.

Indonesian Ambassador Johannes Petrus Louhanapessy and military attache Mokhtar Syaifyl Mufty were among the farewell party.

During its stay in Vietnam, the Indonesian delegation paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, and visited the Army museum, the infantry officers' school and places of interest in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

The Indonesian delegation held talks with a Vietnamese military delegation led by Sen Lt-Gen Doan Khue. The two sides compared notes of issues of mutual concern.

The Indonesian guests were cordially received by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Hung, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and Defence Minister Gen. Le Duc Anh. They all praised the revolutionary tradition and the struggle for defending independence of the

Indonesian people and army, and the long-standing friendship between the two peoples and armies. They wished for further development of the two countries' friendship.

General T. Soetrisno highly appreciated the hospitality of the Vietnamese people and Army given to his delegation during its visit, which expressed the close ties as well as the mutual trust and friendship between the two peoples and armies.

NHAN DAN Views Italy's Decision on F-16's
BK100818 Hanoi VNA in English 0708 GMT
10 Feb 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 10—That the Italian authorities have agreed to the deployment of 72 U.S. F-16 warplanes in their territory is a very dangerous move, further complicating the situation in Europe, notes NHAN DAN in a commentary today.

The paper says:

"The firm demand raised by the Spanish Government for the revocation of those F-16 warplanes from its territory by 1990 is a correct measure conforming to the just aspiration of the Spanish people and of peace-loving people in Western Europe and the world as a whole. The Spanish people have persistently struggled for many years to obtain this aim. For their part, the Italian people have also time and again said to the United States attempt to use their country as a place for the deployment of U.S. modern weapons. [sentence as received]

That is why, the aforesaid decision of the Italian authorities will only make their country more dependent on the arms race policy of the United States and NATO to the detriment of world peace and the just aspiration of the Italian people.

NHAN DAN says in conclusion.

Council of Ministers Commends Province
BK060503 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] According to a report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, as of 29 January 1988, Ha Son Binh Province had completed fulfilling its grain procurement quota for the 1987 10th-month crop season.

As it has fully turned in the grain as scheduled to the central government, thus helping the state resolve the common difficulties regarding grain, the chairman of the Council of Ministers has commended the cadres and people of Ha Son Binh Province for this and has expressed hope that they will continue to develop this spirit by striving to step up the 1987-88 winter-spring crop production to meet the province's grain requirements for the months ahead.

First Japan Freighter Service Planned
*OW080637 Tokyo KYODO in English 0628 GMT
8 Feb 88*

[Text] Hanoi, Feb. 8 KYODO—The first regular freighter service between Vietnam and Japan will be inaugurated next month under an agreement reached recently in Ho Chi Minh City, economic sources said Monday.

The sources said the agreement was reached among the Japan-Vietnam trade association, Vietnam Ship Charter Corp. (Vietfracht) and Seiha Kaiun Co. Of Tokyo.

Ship assignments will be made by Vietnam and a 3,500-ton ship will serve the Haiphong-Japan route once every two months while two similar ships will serve the route between Ho Chi Minh City and Japan each month, the sources said.

Japan is Vietnam's largest trading partner in the West, along with Singapore, and the sources said the inauguration of the regular freighter service will expand trade relations between the two countries.

Ho Chi Minh City To Mark 1968 Tet Offensive
*BK090756 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 8 Feb 88*

[Text] The party and people's committees of Ho Chi Minh City have decided to celebrate solemnly the 20th anniversary of the 1968 Tet general offensives and uprisings on the occasion of the forthcoming Tet of the Year of the Dragon. The city will apply the policy of coordinating all activities related to the anniversary celebration with the efforts to fostering the patriotic tradition and revolutionary heroism among the people, especially youths and teenagers.

Implementing this policy, various organs, precincts, districts, subwards, and villages have organized get-togethers and invited comrades who once participated in the general offensives and uprisings to recount their activities. Many units previously operating in the various resistance bases such as the Southern Military Proselytizing Committee, the F-4 Office, the former Saigon-Gia Dinh City Party Committee have also held traditional meetings with the participation of the former comrade leaders of the Central Office for South Vietnam.

Thai Paper Views Foreign Investment Law
*BK090315 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
9 Feb 88 p 7*

[By Alan Dawson: "Will Vietnam Become a Country You Can Do Business With"]

[Text] Vietnam's foreign relations experts are trolling for dollars and international respectability. With a new foreign investment code, they hope to sweep a bonanza of wealth and good will into their nets.

The wooing of foreign businessmen began officially late last year when the rubber-stamp Parliament approved the wooing of capitalists from around the world into depressed Vietnam. Specific targets are rich Western companies and individuals.

Immediately, a small team of sophisticated technocrats hit the road for a series of briefings (including in Thailand) designed to sell the new policy.

Certainly the new law goes far beyond anything the Communist Party has ever offered to foreign capitalists.

On the surface, it is amazingly similar to a law passed during the last two years of the anti-communist South Vietnamese government. That 1974 investment code gave huge breaks to investors.

Hanoi's version of the law promises tax holidays, security from nationalisation and ease in repatriating profits.

On the other hand, potential businessmen (and their lawyers) may be troubled by some of the fine print in the 14-page law. In particular, despite the headlined offers of help, they may find that day-to-day operations are subject to control of the Vietnamese bureaucracy.

In short, the bureaucrats succeeded after lengthy debate in keeping much of the economic policy of the nation in their own hands.

The new code provides, for example, that foreign investors will be helped and guided by a new body called the State Organ for Management of Foreign Investment.

Apparently, this organisation will be run from the president's office, which has sweeping powers of its own that often surpass those of the government bureaucracy. That's the good news.

The possibly bad news is that specific details of day-to-day business problems will be settled by in-place government workers. And that means, as usual in Vietnam, a myriad of ministries and departments.

The bill is the second attempt to win the trusts—and dollars—of foreign investors since the communists won the war in 1975. The first investment code, in 1977, failed to attract much interest of investment.

The US-trained Hanoi economist Nguyen Xuan Oanh describes the new investment code as "a bold move to open Vietnam's economy to the world."

But businessmen will be certain to notice that Vietnam's economy at present isn't much to brag about. The United Nations ranks the country as one of the 10 poorest in the world.

There are many points that potentially could attract foreign investment, both within and outside the code.

Cheap labour, high unemployment, a high literacy rate and an eagerness to learn are all in Vietnam's favour. These are not even addressed in the actual code.

And like China, Vietnam itself is a potential market for consumer goods despite its overall poverty. The new code specifically mentions the possibility of establishing domestic-market industries.

Vietnam also promises tax holidays that generally are unavailable in more-developed Southeast Asian nations.

Investors in certain fields *may* win an initial two-year holiday, with a further two years with a 50 per cent break. Losses can be carried on the tax books for up to five years.

But even here, there could be a problem. The code makes no mention of who can decide such matters. In the past, such lack of clarity has often meant years waiting for a decision from the bureaucrats.

Repatriation of profits is guaranteed by the code, with taxes of between 10 and 25 percent. Taxation rates on oil and gas projects have no limit. This much is clear.

But expatriate workers will have to pay income tax, and then apply to the government for permission to repatriate their salaries. This water-muddying stipulation fails even to mention the income tax rate on salaries.

Disputes are subject to arbitration—by a Vietnamese arbitration unit.

The code is also extremely unclear on the issue of cheap labour.

Workers, it seems clear, will be assigned by the government, and protected by Vietnamese labour laws which in general forbid firing workers. They will be paid in Vietnamese currency, but by the Hanoi government, at official bank rates, from monies specifically imported from abroad for the payroll.

At present, official exchange rates yield about eight per cent of the free-market value of the dong. Potentially then, labour costs could be high.

The code provides a 20-year guarantee to any investor against nationalisation. (The code also "agrees" that foreign firms or partnerships will be neither requisitioned nor confiscated, although the difference may only be a subtlety of translation.)

This is, perhaps, the single greatest concession given the potential investor. Foreigners have long been wary of doing business in socialist countries—and other dictatorships—without such a guarantee.

On this matter, only time can tell if the legal promise is kept.

Certainly, Party secretary-general Nguyen Van Linh and the other "reformers" in the Stalinist society can be taken at their word here;

But the bureaucrats who fought the new law tooth and nail have an out if they ever succeed in gaining supreme power again. For the code provides that foreign-owned companies must be "a juridical person subject to the laws of Vietnam," and "subject to control" under those laws.

So who can invest in Vietnam?

Well, basically, any foreigner with money or specific technical expertise, except for overseas ethnic Vietnamese who will have their own investment code unveiled soon.

Contract ventures, joint ventures and 100 per cent-foreign owned ventures all will be welcomed, particularly in certain fields. These include tourism, export production, high-tech industries, labour-intensive industries and import-substitution.

No private Vietnamese partners are allowed, although individual Vietnamese may invest in a government-run, participating company.

In other words, Vietnamese partners must come from the centrally managed economic bureaucracy. Foreigners can be capitalists, but not the Vietnamese partners.

Capitalists, naturally, are concerned about their profits.

The code makes it clear that there will be no limit on profits, in general (although government price controls could hit joint ventures aimed at the domestic market).

So a businessman operates in Vietnam, and makes a profit. Then what happens?

First, he declares the profit. The government checks the books.

He then pays a minimum of 15 percent corporate income tax.

He then pays a further five percent into a "reserve fund," whose duties and benefits are entirely unclear in the code.

He then makes a deposit—amount unclear—for "social service insurance" for workers.

He then pays a *minimum* five percent tax on the profits he wishes to repatriate.

He may also wish to reinvest profits into the venture. In such a case, the code provides for a tax refund.

Other than the above cases, the code appears to allow unlimited repatriation, no matter what the amount, of profits. The maximum tax under the code appears to be 65 per cent of profits, plus that deposit for social security.

There appears little doubt, given the high-level publicity campaign underway from Hanoi, that initial greetings to businessmen will be with open arms.

The code specifies that formal applications to set up [ventures] in Vietnam will be answered within three months.

If there are problems, they will arise later. Many undoubtedly will occur because of vague wordings in investment contracts.

Even then, as it has proved for many dozens of years, the Chinese-modelled, French-trained bureaucracy in Vietnam can be almost literally maddening as it interprets regulations.

In addition, the business infrastructure in Vietnam bears no resemblance to that of its non-communist Asian competitors for foreign investment.

By current-day standards, communications are abysmal. The most advanced city in Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, is limited for example to a maximum of 70,000 telephones. That's for 3.5 million citizens.

The tiny number of Telex machines in the country are manual; long-distance telephone calls are made by single-sideband radio; the very best roads are potholed, and it's a big day at the airport when three international flights head out.

Many telegraph offices still use Morse code transmissions inside the country.

Even day-to-day communications will be a big problem for the big investor. The government gets first call on all graduates of foreign-language schools. Second-rate, unemployed translators and interpreters are truly second-rate, and unemployed for a reason.

All of the disadvantages are a shame (though nonetheless real) because of the huge potential of the country of 65 million people.

The best bet appears a hedged one. Those likely to make good under the new investment code will likely be relatively small investors with huge amounts of personal energy to put into the endeavour.

And those in first will likely do the best, because senior officials will undoubtedly strive to make the first few investments pay off as lures to others.

Paper on Communication, Transportation
BK090234 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
1 Feb 88 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Eliminate the Subsidy-based System in and Improve the Operational Quality of the Communication and Transportation Sector"]

[Text] Communication and transportation constitute the center of infrastructures and a special materially productive sector with a profound effect on the economic, political, cultural, social, and national defense activities of the country and a direct effect on the daily life of citizens. In its first year of implementation of the sixth party congress resolution, despite numerous difficulties and changes, the sector fulfilled almost all planned norms in terms of transportation, capital construction, industry, and salvage. Efforts have also been exerted by the sector to transport a number of essential commodities on various major waterways.

However, in general communication and transportation remain a weak element of the economy. Due to inadequate investment coupled with the subsidy-based system that has been applied to our entire society, the communication and transportation sector not only incurs losses but also has insufficient capital depreciation for the repair and maintenance of roads and facilities, thus causing an increasingly serious set back to its material bases. Meanwhile, the long-existing bureaucratic and subsidy-based system has brought about the practice of depending on and waiting for others, caused a lack of dynamism and creativity, delayed the renovation of organizational and managerial work, and given rise to negative phenomena, thus weakening the operational efficiency of communication and transportation in numerous aspects.

This year, although the state has increased the rate of investment in communication and transportation work, raised transportation charges, and collected communications and transportation fees, it still has not been able to solve the serious contradictions between the increasing transportation demands and its rigidly limited ability to furnish materials and capital.

There is no better way to gradually overcome difficulties in communication and transportation than mobilizing and effectively using all sources of investment of the state, localities, and the national defense and other economic sectors and self-acquired funds of various units along with the satisfactory exploitation of the human and material resources of the people to help build up and develop the communication and transportation sector. Meanwhile, measures must be adopted to develop quickly and effectively all sources of investment from foreign countries through joint venture, integration, and international cooperation and all loans and waterway tolls in foreign currencies that have been introduced under the new economic management mechanism. In the next 3 years, it is necessary to concentrate on

utilizing these sources of capital in the direction of intensive investment and fully exploit all existing capabilities and prepare the material and technical bases for the ensuing steps of development. First of all, the investment allocation must be focused on enabling the communication and transportation sector to serve the three major economic programs more satisfactorily.

One of the problems of prime concern for the communication and transportation sector is that it must, along with increasing state investment, strive to renovate its mechanism and policy in compliance with the nature of a materially productive sector. It must implement business accounting, gradually eliminate subsidization, and surge forward to attain profit. These are the most important tasks to overcome obstacles in the sector's production and business process. Important tasks for renovating the management of the communication and transportation sector include efforts to help develop basic economic units' right to autonomy in production and business, correctly implement state-management function of the higher echelons and basic economic units, and carry out the division of labor in accordance with the productive characteristics of the sector. On this basis, we must reorganize management, reduce the numbers of intermediate links, establish rational production chains, apply scientific and technological innovations, strive to save materials and fuel, reduce expenses, and improve the quality of production and business activities.

We must combine tasks to renovate the management of the communication and transportation sector with that of renovating organization and cadre-related tasks. We must strengthen law and order, ensure safe transportation, and carry out major campaigns of the party and state. We must take appropriate and decisive steps in shifting to business and accounting, vigorously develop new factors, while opposing such negative phenomena as sluggishness, dependancy on others, arbitrariness, and carelessness.

The communication and transportation sector has a vast network. As a result, in renovating its management, we must set goals to develop all capabilities of various economic components, especially state-operated components. We must integrate engineering, semi-engineering, and rudimentary facilities with other means to ensure a uniform communication and transportation system from the central to district and village levels. Concrete improvements of the sector must be achieved within this year, especially in improving passenger transport and in increasing the capacity of goods transportation.

NHAN DAN Editorial Urges Practicing Thrift
BK100641 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
27 Jan 88 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Practicing Thrift: Good Initial Results That Need To Be Developed A Step Further"]

[Text] The implementation of the Council of Ministers' decision on practicing thrift by various sectors, localities, and grass-roots units during the past 4 months has scored

satisfactory initial results. A number of tasks have been carried out successfully. These include reviewing norms for material losses, developing handicrafts, reducing transportation fees, strengthening the investment structure to integrate capital and materials for key areas, reorganizing and consolidating various links, streamlining administrative personnel and indirect labor, regulating the use of small cars and the consumption of electricity, and eliminating irrational administrative expenses and other wasteful spending. Preliminary reports made by 35 ministries and sectors and 24 provinces and municipalities show that we have saved tens of thousands of tonnes of fuel and materials, reduced administrative expenses by hundreds of millions of dong, and prevented various wasteful and negative phenomena.

These results confirm that practicing thrift is a correct policy in conformity with the requirements of the national economy which is supported by a broad segment of the public. It is noteworthy that many sectors, localities, and units still carry out their tasks just for form's sake and pay little attention to concrete results. The production, business, and construction sectors have experienced insufficient concrete and prompt guidance to catch up with the price fluctuation situation and adjustment of the system for setting new economic and technical norms. Losses of materials, fuel, and goods during transportation are still serious. Many methods for practicing thrift have not been designed scientifically in accordance with the reality in production, business, and consumption. Some places did not pay attention to the expected work results and automatically cut their expenses, thereby affecting production and causing a set back to their tasks. Lack of uniform coordination in carrying out management, ideological education, and economic development tasks still prevails in guiding and organizing the implementation of tasks. Inspection work has not been carried out consistently, while the campaign to practice thrift and oppose negativism has not been firmly combined with the implementation of party and state political tasks.

It is necessary to continue stepping up the campaign to practice thrift so as to make it a regular and continuous feature of all production, business, and social activities. Wherever we are and whatever we may be doing, practicing thrift is a must; it should be considered a goal of the emulation movement to push for greater productive labor and the practice of thrift linked to efforts aimed at readjusting the organizational structure, renovating the mechanism of management, and changing the rules for the use of labor, means, funds, and so forth. We should not begin by going full blast at first and leave things half finished later; nor should we cite the shortcomings committed during the initial stage as the reason to say that the campaign for thrift has only been launched for form's sake and that it only creates difficulties. In its proper sense, the practice of thrift is a law of development. In production, we must effect even more stringent economization on the use of supplies, raw materials, and

energy; fully utilize secondary and discarded materials, and at the same time, improve labor productivity and product quality. In capital construction, it is necessary to enforce close management over all work processes, from preparing for investments to making actual investments; enhance the efficiency of projects; and reduce costs and construction time. In distribution and circulation, it is necessary to cut down on all expenses, waste, and losses that occur during the transportation, maintenance, and exchange process. In social consumption, utmost efforts must be made to use grain thriftily, limit the use of luxuries and imported consumer goods which can be produced domestically, organize a healthy society that is

suited to the development level of the economy, and combat bad habits and wasteful practices. The requirements for thrift cited above should be instituted as policies, economic-technical norms, and specific regulations so as to facilitate statistical compilation and accountability. Regular inspection should be made to ensure prompt and appropriate rewards and penalties. All collectives and individuals should uphold self-awareness in this endeavor; and cadres, workers, and state employees especially should strive to set examples. The campaign to practice thrift must develop laterally as well as in depth; and it is its depth that will decide realistic socioeconomic efficiency.

Fiji

Resumed Dialogue With New Zealand Reported *BK090805 Melbourne Overseas Service in English* 0700 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Fiji's Foreign Affairs Ministry announced today that New Zealand has resumed dialogue with the country's 2-month old civilian government.

The prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, today received a telephone call from New Zealand's foreign minister, Mr Marshall, and shortly afterwards the New Zealand high commissioner, Mr Gates, called at the prime minister's offices in Fiji's government buildings.

A statement from Fiji's Foreign Ministry said the main subject discussed was the mutual desire by the governments of both countries to resume dialogue and contact.

New Zealand has not formally recognized the Mara government which was formed after power was handed back to President Sir Ratu Penaia Ganilau in December following Fiji's two military coups.

New Zealand's development aid to Fiji still remains officially frozen.

Sedition Charges Dropped Against Minister *BK090800 Melbourne Overseas Service in English* 0700 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] A sedition charge against Fiji's communications minister, Mr Apisai Tora, has been dropped under the terms of a presidential decree gazetted today marking Fiji's proclamation as a republic last October.

Mr Apisai Tora, who was also communications minister in the defeated Alliance government, faced trial on the sedition charge over a speech he made in western Fiji soon after the election. The case was awaiting a hearing before the Republic's judiciary, but under the terms of the decree the charge has now been dropped.

Mr Tora had been identified with the extremist Fijian Taukei Movement.

Under the presidential decree, people charged with political offenses against the state during a 6-month period last year are immune from criminal and civil prosecution. Immunity was granted to a total of 45 people in connection with alleged political offenses between last 30 April—the day the election of the ill-fated coalition was announced—and 7 October.

New Zealand

Government Drops Flat Income Tax Rate Proposal *BK100538 Melbourne Overseas Service in English* 0500 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The New Zealand Government has dropped its proposal for a flat rate of income tax but has reaffirmed its intention to press ahead with tax reform. In a joint news conference with the finance minister, Mr Roger Douglas, in Wellington, the prime minister, Mr Lange, said company tax would be cut to 28% from 1 April and personal income tax rates of 24 and 33% would be brought in from 1 October.

The now abandoned flat tax rate was announced as part of a wide-ranging package of economic reforms by Mr Douglas last December. However, while Mr Douglas was overseas, Mr Lange, on the 28th of last month announced that the flat rate for income tax was being shelved because it was fiscally unworkable and unfair to low income earners.

This created an unprecedented rift between the two ministers, but the AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS said today's announcement, which followed at least three full cabinet meetings and many hours of negotiations, ended concern that Mr Douglas might retire.

The finance minister told reporters today that the reforms gave New Zealand one of the best tax systems in the world.

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